



Valparaiso
University

SCHOOL OF LAW

Dear Alumnus and Friend:

When our law students are called at Commencement, the President hands them a scroll (the diploma comes a little later). The scroll contains a message, which opens with these words:

Long ago, a sage said the following:

Anyone whose deeds are more than his wisdom—his wisdom will endure.

And anyone whose wisdom is more than his deeds—his wisdom will not endure.

You have now completed your formal education and move from a world where you are judged by what you know to a world where you are judged by what you do.

The central thought we share with graduates—that what matters is what one does—is as true and important for the law school as it is for those individual graduates.

As a law school, we wish to be known for what we do—for our teaching, for our preparing individuals for a life of responsibility and professionalism, for our maintaining a microcosm of the world within our walls, and for the panoply of contributions to progress that come from our faculty, staff, alumni, and students.

In this brief letter, I can share with you only a small portion of the wealth of current deeds for which we are known and wish to be known.

Teen Law College

A new and important initiative for the law school—a new and important educational service—is **Teen Law College**. Teen Law College is a rigorous, residential, summer educational program for high school students. The goal is to provide a high quality, law-school like experience to young persons who are thinking about college and ultimately law school. We have taken on this goal, first because of the general importance of legal knowledge and understanding in society, and second in order to recruit excellent students to the University and the School of Law. In this initial summer, we enrolled 24 young people who will be entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year of high school. Most were from the Midwest, but some came from afar, including California and Louisiana. The talent, drive, and energy these young students displayed was remarkable.

Teen Law College provided instruction in both substantive law—criminal law, contracts, and other areas—and in practice skills—legal writing and research, interviewing, and trial skills. The two-week program culminated in mock trials held in the Porter County Courthouse. The program’s realism is reflected in this comment by a student: “My most memorable experience is when I was given the challenge to write an opening statement two days before trial and I accomplished it successfully!”

School of Law faculty, as well as judges and lawyers, provided the instruction, assisted by law students as teaching and residential assistants. Enrichment activities included visits to federal and state courts and other elements of our justice system, plus cultural and recreational opportunities in Chicago and Northwest Indiana. One measure of Teen Law College’s success is the fact that 6 of the 24 students have already submitted applications to Valparaiso University.

Teen Law College will be offered again next summer. For further information, please visit <http://www.valpo.edu/law/teenlaw/>.

Another New Program For Younger Students

Teen Law College is not our only program for students other than law students. In July, we hosted a one-week program for 22 Korean students, ages 16-24. The students were sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Gender Equality and Family. In working with the Ministry, we were greatly assisted by our alumnus, **Ui Jun Suk** ('99 LL.M., '02 J.D.). The students in this program were introduced to the American legal system and they explored relatively advanced topics, such as sexual harassment, pay equity, and domestic violence. We hope to host another group of students sponsored by the Ministry next summer.

Heritage Hall/Lawyering Skills Center

By the time you read this letter, the new Heritage Hall/Lawyering Skills Center will be a reality. Construction is finished. Furniture will be installed over the next several weeks. Clinical faculty will move into their new offices around 1 November. Spring semester classes will be held in the new Center starting in early January.

Looking at the portion of the Center that replicates Heritage Hall, it appears as if the original 1875 building never went away (you can see this for yourself at <http://www.valpo.edu/law/heritagehall/livefeed.php>). But from the inside, you know immediately that this is not an 1875 building. The interior is stunning—both because of its careful attention to providing the best possible environment for teaching and learning (in particular, experiential teaching and learning), and because of the building's understated elegance. Please come and visit.

Please also mark your calendars for the **dedication of the new Center on the afternoon of 2 April 2011**. I hope to see you there.

Faculty Activities and News

I am pleased to report on several important awards and recognitions given to our faculty. **Alan White**¹ received one of the 2010 “Champion of Consumer Rights” awards from the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, for his leadership in the current economic crisis. Some of Alan’s work is described below.

Within the law school, we named the new Michael and Diann Swygert Fellows. The 2010-12 Swygert Teaching Fellow is **Susan Stuart**,² one of our outstanding teachers and the first legal writing faculty member to receive this recognition; and the 2010-12 Swygert Research Fellow is **Linda Whitton**,³ a nationally prominent figure in the fields of estate planning and elder law. The 2010 Distinguished Faculty Award recipient is **Derrick Carter**.⁴ Derrick was recognized, inter alia, for developing an annual spring program in New Orleans where students provide pro bono service to underprivileged citizens—a program for which Derrick was also recognized this year by the Association of American Law Schools.

Two new faculty members have recently joined us. **Del Wright**⁵ came to us from Steptoe & Johnson LLP, in Washington, D.C., where he represented business clients in tax controversies. Before joining Steptoe, Del was a trial attorney in the Tax Division of the United States Department of Justice. Del has his J.D. from the

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University of Chicago and a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. **Justus Morris**⁶ came to us from the New York City office of Simpson Thatcher & Bartlett LLP, where he represented private equity funds and other clients in complex financial transactions. Justus has his J.D. from Howard University and his B.A. from Amherst College. Between college and law school, Justus worked for an advertising agency in Chicago.

As always, the faculty has been exceptionally productive and its work has been wonderfully diversified. A very small sample of recent faculty activity is the following:

- The most recent book by **Robert Blomquist**,⁷ *The Quotable Judge Posner: Selections from Twenty-five Years of Judicial Opinions*, has consistently been listed as a best seller among law-related books since its publication in May.
- An article by **Ivan Bodensteiner**,⁸ "Although Risky after *Ricci* and *Parents Involved*: Benign Race-Conscious Action is Often Necessary," will be published shortly in *National Black Law Journal* (Columbia University).
- **Zachary Calo**⁹ has been named to the editorial board of the *European Journal of Law and Religion*. Among his forthcoming articles is "Paul Robinson's Theory of Punishment," in the *Arizona State Law Journal*.
- **Rebecca Huss**¹⁰ is currently serving as Chair of the Animal Law Section of the Association of American Law Schools. Her article, "Canines in the Classroom: Service Animals in Educational Environments," will appear in the *Journal of Law & Ethics* (University of Pennsylvania).
- **Rosalie Levinson**¹¹ is serving as Chair of the Civil Rights Section of the AALS. Her article, "Gender-Based Affirmative Action and Reverse Gender Bias," will appear in the *Harvard Journal of Law and Gender*.
- **Jeremy Telman**¹² recently presented a paper, "A Matter of Law: Hans Kelsen and the Drafting of the UN Charter," at the annual conference of the Academic Council on the United Nations in Vienna. His article, "Is the Quest for Corporate Responsibility a Wild Goose Chase? The Story of *Lovenheim v. Iroquois Brands*," is forthcoming in the *Akron Law Review*.
- **Alan White** is working with several colleagues on empirical studies of the impact of state laws and preemption on subprime mortgages and foreclosures. The first phase of the study has been published on the web site of the Center for Community Capital at the University of North Carolina, and Alan has distributed a draft article, "The Impact of State Anti-Predatory Lending Laws on the Foreclosure Crisis." In a separate project, he has been

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- studying microcredit and poverty and is distributing a draft paper, "How Should We Regulate Credit for the Poor? Lessons from Developing Nations."
- **Linda Whitton**¹³ delivered the plenary address to the National College of Probate Judges in May. Her forthcoming article in the *Stetson Law Review* is "Everything You Ever Needed to Know about Good Lawyering, You Can Learn from Elder Law."

For more news about faculty work, please regularly check our web site, <http://www.valpo.edu/law/>.

Finally, I am sad to report that Professor **Jack Hiller** ('55) has passed away. A gathering to honor Jack's life and contributions was held in May at the Valparaiso University Center for the Arts, and the Valparaiso University Law Review will publish a collection of remembrances and tributes to Jack. If you would like a reprint of that collection, please contact me.

American Bar Association Activities

One area in which members of the law school community provide a great deal of service is the American Bar Association. To begin, we have a very strong chapter of the American Bar Association Law Student Division and much student leadership. At the ABA Annual Meeting in August, 2010-11 SBA President **Carter Alleman** ('11) was elected national Vice Chair for Student Bar Associations. **Latasha Towles** ('11) has been elected Liaison from the Division to the International Criminal Law Committee of the Section of International Law. **Richard Mitchell** ('11) has been elected Division Liaison to the ALI-ABA Committee on Continuing Professional Education. And **Yjimizia Jones** ('12) has been elected Seventh Circuit Lieutenant Governor for Nontraditional Student Recruitment.

This past spring, we hosted the semi-annual meeting of the ABA Law Student Division for the Seventh Circuit, with a program that included the national Chair of the Division and representatives of the Office of the Consultant on Legal Education. At the conference, **Christen Commers** ('10) was awarded the Silver Key, the highest award for service to the Association given to individuals not holding national office.

Many members of the law school community have leadership positions in the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. I have been appointed Chair of the Accreditation Committee for 2010-2011. **Susan Gainey Odoyo** ('99) is the Young Lawyers Division Liaison to the Council of the Section. **Cornell Boggs** ('85) is a member of the Standards Review Committee. **Ruth Vance**¹⁴ is Vice Chair of the Communication Skills Committee. **Curt Cichowski**¹⁵ is a member of the Section's

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Law School Administration Committee. And **Mary Persyn**¹⁶ is a member of the Law Libraries Committee. In addition, many of our faculty and alumni, and many senior administrators in the University, have served on accreditation site visit teams.

Finally, many faculty members have had leadership positions over the years in subject-area sections of the ABA, and I have described some of that leadership in prior letters. The latest addition to that list is **Rebecca Huss**, who is Chair-Elect Designee of the Animal Law Committee of the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section.

Career Planning Developments

Career Planning is central to the service we provide students (as well as alumni). Over the past several months, the Career Planning Center staff has been calling every 2L and 3L student to discuss career progress and employment plans, and to discuss the student's need for assistance in the fall. The CPC is encouraging every student to come into the office for further counseling and assistance. In September, the CPC staff will begin to call every 1L student to follow up on the programming begun at Pre-Orientation and Orientation, and to initiate the career advising process.

The Career Planning staff is today able to engage in this comprehensive, individualized outreach to students because the staff has been greatly enlarged. We have enlarged the staff in order to better serve the full range of student needs. Ten years ago, the Center had one career services professional and one individual providing administrative support. Currently, the staff consists of six people: **Christine Corral**¹⁷ the Executive Director; **Lisa Cannon**,¹⁸ the Director of Experiential Education; **Kim Kass**¹⁹, the Associate Director for Career Advising; **Jason Prowant**²⁰, the Assistant Director for Career Advising; **Erika Nelson**,²¹ the Assistant Director for Alumni Engagement; and **LaKisha Myles**,²² the Associate Administrator. We are currently interviewing candidates for a seventh position, that of Director of Career Planning—a position with substantial responsibility for employer outreach and employment opportunity development.

As part of its comprehensive responsibilities, the Career Planning Center manages externships and many other forms of experiential education. In spring 2011, the CPC will host the first annual **Externship Expo**, to bring extern employers to campus.

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Employers will be able to interview and hire new student externs for summer 2011 and for the 2011-12 academic year. We are especially interested in opportunities in Chicago, South Bend and Indianapolis. If you would like to participate, or would like further details, please contact **Lisa Cannon**.

The Career Planning Center also has responsibility for much of our work with alumni. A large part of that work is with our Regional Councils in Chicago, Indianapolis, Grand Rapids, Fort Wayne, St. Louis, Washington, D.C., the Twin Cities, and the Southwest (Phoenix-Tucson-Las Vegas). These Councils are extremely important to our career development programs in those areas, and the assistance that alumni provide is invaluable. If you are interested in participating, please contact **Erika Nelson**.

Finally, if you or anyone in your office is seeking to hire either law students, recent graduates, or experienced lawyers or law-trained individuals, please contact the Career Planning Center. You and other alumni are the greatest source of opportunities for our students and graduates. Recently, one of our alumni, who works in a state attorney general office, told me that her office hires thirty students and graduates each year. She said she realized that she should have been working with our Career Planning Center to direct students and graduates to these opportunities. Please think about how you can open doors for our students and your fellow alumni.

Speakers, Conferences, and Other Events

We have a remarkable schedule of public programs this year—indeed, I think, the best program of lectures and conferences ever. Some of the leading events, in chronological order are the following:

- On 21 October 2010, Professor **Gerald Torres** of the University of Texas will deliver the **Indiana Supreme Court Lecture**.
- On 8 November 2010, **William Eskridge**, the John A. Garver Professor of Jurisprudence at Yale, will deliver the **Seegers Lecture on Jurisprudence**.
- On 20 January 2011, Professor **Devon Carbado** of UCLA will present the **Martin Luther King, Jr., Lecture**.
- On 8 February 2011, Professor **Dan Farber** of Berkeley and Professor **Doug Kysar** of Yale will present the **Monsanto Lecture on Torts Jurisprudence**. The Monsanto Lecture this year will be part of the law school's **Conference on Private Litigation as a Tool for Regulating Climate Change**.

- On 25 March 2011, the Law Review will host a symposium on legal implications of synthetic cell technology. Dr. **Thomas Murray**, Director of the Hastings Center on Bioethics, will be the keynote speaker.
- On 7 April 2011, Judge **Juan Guzmán** will deliver the **Tabor Lectures on Ethics**. Judge Guzmán, the Chilean jurist who handled the prosecution of Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet for human rights abuses, was the subject of the acclaimed documentary film, *El Juez & El General*, which will be shown as part of the Tabor Lectures Program.

In addition to these lectures and conferences, we will host two Scholars in Residence. In the fall, we will host Professor Emeritus **Terri LeClerq** of the University of Tennessee, a nationally prominent expert in the field of legal writing. In the spring, we will host Professor **Paola Bergallo**, of Universidad de los Andes, in Santiago, Chile, who writes in the field of women's rights and feminist theory.

Please note that this is only part of our schedule, and there will be many, many other speaker and programs throughout the year. Information on them is always available at <http://www.valpo.edu/law/>.

Conclusion

For many law schools, the current times remain challenging. As I am sure you can conclude from this letter, the times are not so challenging for us. To the contrary, this has been a time for realizing opportunities and continuing to make strong progress in ever so many aspects of our work.

One main reason the law school is thriving is the commitment of good people to a clear mission. The other reason is the clear focus of everyone on what matters most (or at any rate should matter most) in legal education: doing well for the constituencies we serve.

In this short letter, I can provide you with only a glimpse of what we are doing so well and on our commitment to students and other constituencies. We are very proud of what we do as a law school community, and proud to have you as part of it.

Very truly yours,

Jay Conison
Dean and Professor