

# Greetings

From the Dean

## TO ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL:

Wisconsin, together with other law schools of stature, is constantly concerned with the "relevance" of its program to the problems of modern life. "Relevance" may not always have the same meaning to us that it has to the generation of students we are trying to teach to be lawyers, but we are trying to ensure that what they learn here will enable them to meet the demands placed on them as lawyers in the future, and also to contribute to their society in large and small ways. To train them adequately, we need to anticipate rather than merely react to the problems that will develop from time to time.

"Poverty Law" is the "in" thing today; but it is not a complete platform on which a forward-looking school can soundly base its long-range program, for some authorities have said that poverty is well on the way to being eliminated as a major problem in this country. While for generations there will undoubtedly remain pockets of abject poverty, if it ceases to be a pervasive social phenomenon it will demand less serious attention in the law schools within a short time—probably even before we have really developed an adequate training program for it.

We are now doing the best we can to train lawyers to deal with it as long as it presents legal problems, and elsewhere in this issue are described our efforts to provide relevant training in "poverty law" to those especially interested in it. It has been closely tied to clinical training which is a pedagogical device adaptable to other fields as well.

However, we should plan our future curriculum with recognition that the problems of the future will not necessarily be those of poverty. Living together in crowded urban society creates many tensions and thus many legal problems that may sometimes be, but are not necessarily, connected with poverty.

The law of the future—the place where the action will be—will be in relation to crime and its prevention, to mass transportation, to pollution and poisoning of the environment, to the protection of privacy in the era of the computer and electronic devices of extraordinary sensitivity, to name only a few.

This School has long had one of the country's leading programs for the study of crime, its prevention and techniques for handling it when it occurs. The report in this issue on Jim MacDonald's work with newly conceived and organized efforts to deal with pollution control through the courts is another illustration of Wisconsin attempts to get involved in these problems of the future. The effort to deal with dispute settlement in a broad framework through Nate Feinsinger's Center for Teaching and Research in Disputes Settlement is still another. We also have much interest in developing other programs that relate to the future. We are exploring with care and deliberation the possibility of establishing a major program in transportation law, and though there is not yet any assurance that it will work out, it is an exciting prospect to many members of the faculty.

We have not lost sight of the fact that the new law jobs do not displace the old, and that Wisconsin must help supply lawyers for the small towns of this and other states, to deal with the large and small conflict resolution and planning needs of all of our citizens. Doing the world's work and keeping the wheels turning is honorable and necessary lawyers' work, and people must be trained to do it, despite the greatly increasing complexity of the legal institutions with which they must deal regularly.

We must train people, too, to be effective advocates in both the traditional and the new kinds of cases. Persuasion is, *par excellence*, one of the lawyer's chief recurring tasks. Much additional emphasis is now being placed on trial and appellate advocacy in our thinking about our future, as well as on other subjects of long-standing concern to the lawyer but largely ignored in

the law schools in recent decades. We are engaging in some pedagogical experiments in advocacy which will be reported in detail in subsequent issues of *The Gargoyle*. Mediation is also persuasion of a different sort, and this issue reports on a conference pointed toward efforts to generalize what is known about mediation to other dispute settlement problems. We have been busy and hope that you both approve the effort and will be pleased with the results. With your help and support, we are confident we can build a continually better Wisconsin Law School.

Spencer L. Kimball  
Dean

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Joint Alumni Boards Meet	
November 7 .....	2
A Librarian's Tribute to	
Angie Brooks .....	2
Greetings from the Dean .....	3
Class of 1972 .....	4
Student Bar .....	4
Placement .....	5
Redlich Leads Clinical Program ....	6
Katz Appointed to Haight Chair ..	6
Jones Joins Law Faculty .....	7
G.W. Foster, New Associate Dean	7
Feinsinger's Conference .....	8
Mermin Studies Japanese	
Legal Process .....	11
Environmental Law is	
MacDonald's Bag .....	12
Support For The Law School	
Needed .....	13
The Dean at Oxford .....	14
Small Classes Revived	
For The First Year .....	14

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