

## Greetings

### From the Dean

#### To Alumni and Friends of the University of Wisconsin Law School:

With this issue the Law School begins a new publishing venture.

One of the defects which I sensed early in my career as Dean in the relationship of the Law School to its many alumni and other friends was a massive failure of communication. With relatively few exceptions, our alumni have simply lost contact with what we do in the Law School. This is often true even in those instances where you maintain close friendships with members of the law faculty. For some alumni, lack of communication leads to an assumption that we have not been innovative and imaginative in coming to grips with the new problems of legal education. For others, it leads to precisely the opposite assumption, for the isolated things they have heard about the school have overemphasized novelties, and led them to fear that the old skills and values were being lost in the effort to achieve modernity.

The truth, as is so often the case, lies between. In fact, at least from the days of Lloyd Garrison, if not before, this school has been a leader in experimenting with new and better ways to teach law. That does not mean, of course, that all our experiments have been successful, nor that all innovations will be retained. But we consistently try new things. The Faculty has tried hard to meet the needs of an increasingly complex society without losing sight of the great traditional values. We believe that if all of you knew more about what we were trying to do, why we were trying to do it, and how we were going about the task, your wisdom and experience could help us do it better.

Moreover, we believe you might have more sympathy for the Faculty, as we struggle valiantly to impart to an increasingly skeptical generation the values inherited from its fathers. Our goal is to give the young generation not only the skills and knowledge it needs to become wise and useful, but also the help it needs to solve the problems its fathers have left unsolved.



Our inadequacies are only too apparent to us. The means to correct and eliminate them are less obvious. But surely one of the means is to open a channel for better communication between the school and its alumni.

Primarily, this publication will serve as a means for us to communicate to you. We hope that it will also serve as a stimulus for you to communicate to us, giving us freely and frankly and without reservation your thoughts about the strengths and weaknesses of the school and the means you see to improve it. We welcome the criticism, and we will not quail even if it is sharp, though we do also hope that it will be constructive—that it will suggest solutions as well as problems. If you suggest only problems, you will add to a multitude of which we are already aware and have not yet been able to solve.

The publication can also serve to some extent as a device for you to communicate with each other. We plan to provide, regularly, news of alumni, as well as of the school, so far as it is supplied to us and is of general interest.

One of the ways in which we hope to further communication, and this time mainly from you to us, is to convert the Board of Visitors from a body that is mainly honorary to one that has an important job to do. Plans are under way for an annual visitation of the school by the Board of Visitors. We hope all members of the Board will be able to spend as much as two days with us, attending some classes, hearing reports from various

committee chairmen and other faculty members, and then sitting down in sessions of their own to reflect on what they have seen and heard. We expect that a thoughtful report from the Board will follow and will be of help to the Faculty in its deliberations on curriculum and other school problems.

There is much more that I could say to you, but the rest of this issue and the future issues of the Gargoyle will say it better by dealing more concretely with the things in which you are interested. I want only to add that this first year as the Dean of your Law School has been a challenging and interesting one. I am proud to serve in that capacity. This is a first-rate school, and we on the Faculty all hope to make it even better. To do so, we need your loyal support.

Spencer L. Kimball  
Dean

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