

FROM THE DEAN

Twelve months to go! One more year of construction until the new, improved Law building welcomes its first students and looks forward to a Grand Reopening for all its friends! Even though this summer is, perhaps, the hardest time of all, we can see the proverbial “light at the end of the tunnel.”

Talk about difficult times! There is no airconditioning anywhere in the building this summer, except for a few small units we have tried to install to prevent the staff from melting altogether. During several hot spells this summer, some areas inside the Law Library, which continues to



Dean Daniel O. Bernstine

function during construction, hit 97 degrees. The faculty tower has no elevator and no restrooms, so the few who have to work, climb to the fifth or sixth floor, drink soda to quench their thirst, and then have to climb back down to use the remaining restroom before starting the cycle all over again. However, generally, faculty have the option to work at home during the summer. On the other hand, secretarial and support staff have had to endure these hardships because they do not have the option of working elsewhere. I want to take this opportunity to commend and thank them for their patience and cooperation during these arduous times.

I am also fortunate because I have to spend a good deal of my time visiting with alumni as we seek to wrap up the fund-raising for the building. These visits always involve meeting interesting people in pleasant and comfortable surroundings. To those of you whom I have seen and who have made a commitment to the building project—thank you. To those of you who I have yet to meet with — please accept my call or invitation to one of our many alumni events.

Recently the State Building Commission gave us some good news and some bad news. The good news is that the Commission approved a request to restore some funding which was cut last summer and increased the funding to conduct asbestos abatement. However, the bad news is that the Commission also raised our share of the project from \$5 million to \$6 million, which means that we still have to raise \$1.3 million to reach our goal.

Most contributions have been in the form of five-year pledges and have come from individuals and those giving through law firm or class gifts. We are working to conclude the fund raising with regional fund-raising efforts, several of which are now under way in Wisconsin. Local committees have been formed and are reaching out to alumni throughout the larger communities in the state. We hope to expand these regional efforts outside Wisconsin to areas where significant concentrations of alumni exist.

The final phase will include phone calls and mailings to



New construction facing Bascom Hill

every Law School graduate who has not yet contributed to the building project. This phase is scheduled for summer and fall of 1996 and will give each alumnus a final opportunity to make a commitment to the future of the Law School.

One of the benefits of the alumni funds for the project, however, is that it allows us to upgrade some of the most public areas in the building. As Tom Palay, chair of our faculty building committee, says, "We need a building that raises expectations rather than dampens them. We need a building at least as good as the quality of our students, faculty and alumni." With your help, we will soon have it.

While construction goes on around us, the Law School continues its business. We welcomed Steve Barkan as our new Law Librarian, replacing Blair Kauffman who took a

similar position at Yale Law School. Michael Smith, a scholar at the Vera Institute of Justice, has joined us as a professor in the criminal justice area. After both have settled in, we will interview them for this publication and share their accomplishments with you. As you will read in this issue, long-time duplication czar, Ruth Saaf, has retired. In addition, Nancy Hubacher, who worked here for more than 25 years, the last 19 in Career Services, also retired. While you might think that I, as Dean, run the Law School, those of us within the School know it is really the people who teach the courses and engage in outstanding research and public service as well as those people who keep the paper flowing, the students registering, and the budget balanced who are really in charge.