

## Dean's Note

The Spring semester is well underway. As a native Californian, I have always wondered why a semester that certainly begins and occasionally ends with snow and cold temperatures is called "Spring" semester. In any event, as I write this note, we are now in the midst of our January thaw and even I have some hope that there will be a Spring this year.

In the spirit of the upcoming season, we are currently undergoing a spring facelift here at the Law School. We are in the process of painting the hallways, refurbishing several of the classrooms, laying carpet and making various repairs, most of which are long overdue. An example of our new look is demonstrated in this issue of the *Gargoyle*. As many of you know, one of the most memorable landmarks in the Law School is "Reality Checkpoint," which is a cement wall at the top of a blind staircase in the Library wing. In fact, this spot has received both national and international note (see, Hayden, *Social Courts in Theory and Practice: Yugoslav Workers' Courts in Comparative Perspective*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1990). The photograph in this issue of the *Gargoyle* shows how we have given Reality Checkpoint a new, three-dimensional look. The steps have been carpeted and the area has been made into a place where students can socialize and otherwise contemplate the meaning of this architectural feat. In addition, a banner that was designed by several undergraduate students, including Jennifer Allen, daughter of Steve Allen ('72), has been hung in the main lobby. We are also purchasing new furniture and adding some greenery to make the lobby a pleasant and welcoming site. I hope that in the future, we will be able to use our lobby for some of our social events.

Actually, our "Spring Sprucing" is but a small example of how we are working to improve the quality of life for students, faculty and staff. This facelift for the building is possible, in part, because of the support that you, our alumni, have given to the Law School over the years. On behalf of all of us who live in the building on a day-to-day basis, Thank You!

I am pleased to report that the Board of Regents recently approved \$500,000 to plan the new addition to our existing structure. The approval is now pending before the State Building Commission. I will keep you informed as to our progress.

I am also pleased to inform you that the Law School continues to be a powerhouse in the various moot court competitions this year. As I wrote in my last column, our teams won the Chicago Bar Moot Court Association Competition and we were also the regional champions as well as semifinalists in the National Moot Court Competition. I am now pleased to report that Denise Steele ('92) and Heather Sampson ('92) won the Midwest Regional



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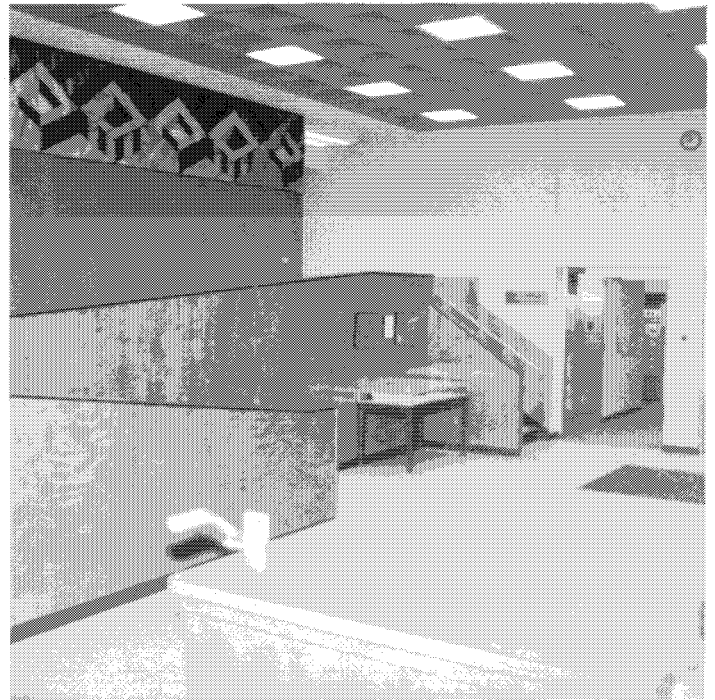


New library entrance

Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition in Minneapolis. The finals are scheduled to be held in Los Angeles in March. In addition, Joan Aquado ('91), Denis Stearns ('92), Felix Servantez ('91) and Jack Wagler ('92) won the Midwest Regional Championship of the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition hosted this year by the Law School. The finals are scheduled to be held in Washington, D.C. in April. Moreover, in the William B. Spong, Jr. Moot Court Tournament, Beth Rahmig ('92) and Patrick Dolan ('92) were quarterfinalists and John Stoneman ('92) and Joe Mettner ('92) were also quarterfinalists and won the award for best brief.

Finally, I am continuing to amass the frequent flyer miles traveling around the country for our alumni receptions. So far, each of the gatherings have been tremendously successful. By the end of this academic year, over forty alumni events will have been held and we are already scheduling another series of events for next year. I encourage you to attend the gathering in your area because I am anxious to meet as many of you as possible. The gatherings are also an opportunity for you to make and renew acquaintances with your fellow alumni.

Nearly all of the events this year were scheduled before I was appointed as Dean and, therefore, I take no responsibility for the fact that the January through March gatherings are almost always in warm climates. While I take no responsibility for this coincidence, I have made no attempts to modify the schedule. Perhaps, by the time my travels during this semester are over, it really will be Spring.



Remodeled Main Lobby with wheelchair access ramps



Before



After

Reality Checkpoint