

Dean's Note

It has been a very busy spring semester and there are a number of noteworthy events to report.

Five faculty members were appointed to named professorships in recognition of their distinguished accomplishments within their fields of expertise as well as their service to both the Law School and University communities. Professor Gordon Baldwin was named the Mortimer M. Jackson Professor; Professor Peter Carstensen was named the Robert W. and Irma M. Arthur-Bascom Professor; Professor James E. Jones, Jr., was named the Nathan P. Feinsinger Professor; Professor Stewart Macaulay was named the Foley and Lardner-Bascom Professor; and Professor June Weisberger was named the Kathleen M. and George I. Haight-Bascom Professor.

During the weekend of April 26-27, the 48th Annual Spring Program was held for our alumni. Rod Kittelsen ('40) was the keynote speaker at the annual Benchers Dinner on Friday evening and spoke on the importance of the Benchers Fund to the Law School. At the luncheon on Saturday, George Steil ('50) and Orrin Helstad ('50) received the 1991 Distinguished Service Awards and Professor Carin Clauss was named Teacher of the Year. In addition, for the first time, there was a faculty forum before the luncheon. This year's forum was entitled "The Transformation of the Big Law Firm." The panel participants were UW Law Professor Thomas Palay, Frank Bixby ('53) and Paul Morrow ('57). The discussion was focused around a new book, "Tournament of Lawyers: The Transformation of the Big Law Firm," that was co-authored by Professor Palay and UW Law Professor Marc Galanter. Attendees received one-hour of CLE credit from the Supreme Court of Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners. In light of the forum's success, I anticipate that similar faculty-alumni programs will become a permanent part of the weekend's events. Of course, a significant aspect of the weekend's activities involved the class reunion dinners on Saturday evening for the 10th, 25th, 40th and 50th reunion classes.

As you recall, the cover of the last issue of the *Gargoyle* featured the new look that we have given to Reality Checkpoint. During the Spring Program luncheon, Tony Varda ('76) came forward and staked a claim as one of the co-conspirators who named Reality Checkpoint. According to Tony, he and Grant Callow ('77) are responsible for naming the site. Let this serve as official notice that Tony and Grant will forever be given credit for coining the phrase unless others of you write in to challenge this claim.

During the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Law Alumni Association, the following officers were elected for 1991-92: Kirby O. Bouthilet, President; Thomas J. Drought, Vice President; and Frank J. Bixby, Chair, Board of Visitors. I look forward to working with these new



officers. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing officers, Jeffrey B. Bartell, President; and Alan R. Post, Chair, Board of Visitors, who gave a substantial amount of their time and energy for the benefit of the Association and the Law School. Their support and good counsel have been of immeasurable benefit to me during my first year as Dean.

On another note, the Law School gave an official send-off to Mary Duckwitz, our Admissions Officer, who is retiring after 37 years of service to the School. Mary has been the backbone of the admissions office and during her tenure, she has read over 45,000 applications for admission to the School. Mary has been a friend to students, staff and faculty and we will miss her very much. We wish her the very best in her retirement.

Finally, the Law School was ranked 21st overall and 19th academically in the latest *US News and World Report* survey. As you recall, last year the Law School was not on the list of the top 25 schools. Of course, there are no rating systems that can accurately and objectively measure the relative quality of law schools and, therefore, no one should treat the *US News* or any other survey as an official ranking of law schools. On the other hand, whether official or not, it is always nice to be included on anyone's list of top schools.

What the survey does point out is that the UW is a very strong law school and, assuming arguendo that the *US News* survey is accurate, we are in the top 12% of all law schools in the United States. However the challenge that the Law School faces is to remain in this elite category of institutions. We can successfully meet this challenge if we continue to strengthen and broaden our curriculum, attract top students and retain and attract the best and brightest faculty members. In addition, we must modernize our current physical facility so that we can remain competitive with our peer institutions. I have no doubt that if we all continue to work hard together, the UW will always be among the top law schools in the country, no matter who is doing the counting.

Dean Daniel O. Bernstine