

FROM THE DEAN

It is difficult to imagine this campus and city 125 years ago. In the fall of 1868, the University of Wisconsin, twenty years after its creation, began offering courses in the College of Law. Classes, however, began almost a mile off campus in the unfinished chambers of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. Shortly after, this arrangement proved unsatisfactory and classes moved to a room on State Street above a saloon.

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During the current school year, our Law School has almost 100 minority students, over 10 percent of our student body, and a record 37 first-year minority students. This spring our Legal Education Opportunity Program



Dean Daniel O. Bernstine

Not until 1893, one hundred years ago, did the Law School find a permanent home at its current site on Bascom Hill. A century later we are looking forward to essentially our third building in the heart of this great campus.

Longevity alone would justify celebrating, but we have even greater reason to memorialize these anniversaries. We can be justifiably proud of how far our Law School has gone while remaining in one place!

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(LEO) celebrates its 25th anniversary. From a modest beginning, and with an infusion of alumni money over the years, the LEO program now attracts highly qualified

minority applicants from Wisconsin and around the country. Six minority faculty members not only serve as role models but, at the same time, they win plaudits for their teaching and research skills.

For many years our student body has included almost equal representation by men and women and the current school year is no exception. Margo Melli and Shirley Abrahamson were two of our early female faculty members. In recent years, however, additional women scholars have joined the faculty until we can boast of ten female colleagues with several more holding clinical faculty rank.

While on the subject of our faculty, some of you may wonder about the direction that our faculty is taking with the retirement of a number of our senior members such as Frank Remington, Margo Melli, Jim Jones, and Ted Finman, our most recent retirees. There is no reason for your concern. This Law School has always been an attractive location for the top legal scholars interested in teaching top students. While we will sorely miss our colleagues, new faculty members such as Beverly Moran, Jane Schachter, Richard Monette, Victoria Nourse and Ian Haney Lopez not only demonstrate our ability to meet the challenge of recruiting excellent replacements for our retiring "giants," but also further our self-appointed duty of achieving diversity at the same time. In fact, we have been so successful recruiting the best new law teachers that we constantly face the threat of raids by our prestigious peer institutions.

On March 27, the Benchers Society, a group of prominent alumni who have consistently supported the School with their talent and checkbooks, will meet for their annual dinner in the Old Reading Room of the Law Library. The guest speaker at the dinner will be Robert B. L. Murphy ('32) who you will find noted in the "Have You Heard" column in this issue. Bob is a particularly appropriate speaker for the Benchers. A Charter Bencher himself, honored by the Law School with its Distinguished Service Award in 1979, Bob's career spans almost half of the history of the

School. Furthermore, Bob's father, Lawrence B. Murphy, was a member of the Class of 1893, the first class to graduate from the original law building here on Bascom Hill.

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Between them they represent a century of outstanding service to the legal profession, the community, their clients and to the University which helped train them.

Benchers and other supporters have allowed us to remain an excellent law school. Private support, always necessary, has become even more critical as the amount of state tax support in our budget drops towards the 25 percent mark. Your contributions make the critical difference in providing scholarships for students, faculty research funds and travel and professional dues supplements for faculty and staff. I thank you, and your School thanks you.