

Gargoyle

Alumni Magazine of the University of Wisconsin Law School

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MESSAGE *from the Dean*



Kenneth B. Davis, Jr.

GREETINGS TO ALL, and welcome to our Summer 2002 *Gargoyle*.

Once again, I invite you to read through these pages and note with pride the achievements of the UW Law School's faculty, students and alumni.

Among the varied projects that we are working on here at the Law School is one that we know is of interest to many of you: our Legal Research and Writing Program. As you may recall, a year and a half ago, we identified the skills and areas of knowledge that graduates need in the early years of their legal careers. We surveyed more than 200 employers around the country and more than 1,000 of our recent graduates (out of law school for 2-5 years). Lawyers responding to our survey, *Assessment 2000*, answered that the most important skills for a lawyer's success are legal reasoning and written and oral communication. Employers and graduates were in close agreement that computer-assisted and traditional research are also among the most important skills.

The need to provide more opportunities for students to develop their legal writing skills was another recurring theme throughout the survey responses, and many graduates said they wish they had taken additional legal writing courses in law school. Employers and graduates also identified writing or legal writing as one of the main areas to which the UW Law School should devote more resources.

We took that information and set to work, hiring an expert in this field to be our consultant. She is Jill Ramsfield '83, our own UW Law alumna, who is now a tenured professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, where she is Director of the Legal Research and Writing program. Professor Ramsfield has inspired us with her competence and energy as we explore the many models that

exist for legal writing programs. (She also happens to be one of our profiled alumni-professors in this issue; see page 22.)

We selected a faculty committee, chaired by Professor Howard Erlanger, charged with increasing the writing opportunities available to our students and investigating ideas to help us continue moving toward an integrated and innovative approach to legal writing. Committee members have spent countless hours collecting input from the faculty and others with ideas for enriching our students' experience with legal writing.

I will keep you updated as the new program takes a more permanent shape over the next two years. At this point, I want to thank our two important constituencies—alumni and employers—for your feedback. I am pleased to be able to say that we asked you what was most important to you, you told us—and we set about doing it.

Dear Friends:

As this edition of the *Gargoyle* was going into production, we learned the tragic news of the death of Howard Eisenberg, our alumnus and the Dean of Marquette University Law School. Howard died on June 4 of a heart attack at the young age of 55. Words cannot express our profound sense of loss here at the UW Law School, since so many of us knew him as a colleague and a friend. In Howard's memory, the *Gargoyle* is reprinting the reflections about him that appeared on the State Bar of Wisconsin's Web site (see page 53 of this issue). We have lost a brilliant, dedicated and immensely caring individual.