

LAW IN ACTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

FALL 2004

BRUCE FRITZ



Alumni Advise Legal Research and Writing Program

As part of the Law School's increasing emphasis on communication skills, thirty members of Wisconsin's legal community gathered this spring at the Law School for a Legal Research and Writing Symposium. Moderated by Professor Susan Steingass, Director of the Communication and Advocacy Program, the symposium's aim was to discuss the legal research and writing skills that the legal community expects law school graduates

(Continued on page 2)

Law School is National Leader In Clinical Education

The University of Wisconsin Law School is one of the national leaders in providing clinical opportunities for its students, both in quality and in the number of opportunities available.

The Law School's clinical education program is ranked among the best in the country in national rankings of law schools. Most recently, the program was ranked among the top fifteen law schools in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report's* poll of clinical faculty members across the country.

An article in the Summer 2004 issue of *Prelaw Magazine*, which includes statistics on 185 U.S. law schools, shows the UW

Law School to be in the top echelon nationwide both in absolute numbers and in relation to class size.

The UW Law School is among the top eight of the 185 schools based on the number of clinical spots available for its students (259 clinic spots). In relation to class size, with 259 spots for a class of 288 students, the University of Wisconsin's ability to provide clinical opportunities for 90 percent of the class puts it among the highest of all law schools in the nation.

For more information on clinical education at the UW Law School, visit our Web site at www.law.wisc.edu.

UW Law Among Top 15 in Preparing Grads to Teach Law

The University of Wisconsin Law School has been ranked among the top fifteen law schools nationwide based on the number of law professors it counts among its alumni. The statistic is part of a research report by Professor Brian Leiter of the University of Texas School of Law, who set out to determine what schools are "the top 15 law schools to attend for purposes of becoming a law professor." More than 150 of the UW Law School's alumni have gone on to careers in teaching law.



ANDY MANIS

Welcome to the first issue of *Law in Action*, the UW Law School's newsletter for alumni and friends. This newsletter responds to a request from many of you for more regular and timely information about what's happening at the Law School. There is so much going on that I want to share with you — new faculty, groundbreaking scholarship, terrific programs, and amazing students — and I hope that this newsletter will be an

effective and enjoyable way for you to learn about the exciting things happening at your law school.

Law in Action, which will be published twice a year, takes its name from our Law School's signature approach to teaching and studying the law, a way of thinking that looks beyond statutes and case law to ask, "How does this affect people's lives in the real world?" "Law in Action" is an approach that has led to our national reputation for innovative methods in both teaching and scholarship, and it is reflected in our preeminence over the years in fields such as legal history, criminal justice, industrial relations, law and society, and comparative institutional economics. It is also a focus that will serve us well as we look to the future.

In addition to introducing *Law in Action*, I want to take this opportunity to share my enthusiasm about this year's entering class. We have recently welcomed to the law building 274 first-year students who comprise the Class of 2007. They were chosen from an applicant pool of 3,411. They are

a terrific group, as always. Many of them are individuals who have not come to us directly after undergraduate school: they have been out in the world, engaged in a multiplicity of interesting work, including government and politics, social work, journalism, business, law enforcement, wetlands restoration, product engineering, teaching abroad and in universities, aerospace technology, the Peace Corps, the military, information technology, and even competing in the Olympics — and the list goes on.

When you add this outstanding group to the equally dynamic and committed students and faculty who are already here, you have a recipe for success. Indeed, success has been ours in recent years on many fronts, and I have a strong feeling that we will reach even higher levels of achievement and service in the coming years. Stay tuned, and *Law in Action* will join the *Gargoyle* to bring you regular updates on life at the UW Law School. I think you will be as proud of the Law School as I am.

— Dean Kenneth B. Davis, Jr.

Law in Action is the semiannual newsletter of the University of Wisconsin Law School. 975 Bascom Mall
Madison, WI 53706-1399

Dean of the Law School:
Kenneth B. Davis, Jr.

Editor: Carolyn Lazar Butler
clbutler2@wisc.edu

News writer: Dianne Sattinger
dlsattinger@wisc.edu

Contact for Class Notes:
Ed Reisner; ereisner@wisc.edu

Contact for gifts information: Ann Flynn
ann.flynn@uwfoundation.wisc.edu

Design: Wisconsin Alumni Association

(*Alumni, continued from page one*) to have, and how the Law School can teach those skills most effectively. The discussions were candid, robust, and productive, and participants provided concrete ideas about ways to help ensure that students graduate with the skill sets they will need as lawyers.

With information from the symposium in hand, Professor Steingass's project assistants went on to conduct interviews about legal research and writing with twenty lawyers and judges identified as having a particular interest or

concern about writing. The project assistants also analyzed the legal research and writing programs of ten schools with reputations for successfully developing successful, innovative legal research and writing programs. Ideas from the symposium and the other activities, which were funded by a grant from the University of Wisconsin's Assessment Council, are being incorporated into the curriculum this year and will continue to provide direction for the Law School's Communication and Advocacy Program.