



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.

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(*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.