

From the Dean



DEAN DAVID F. LEVI

Dear Friends,

IT'S HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE that it has been nearly five years since I left the bench to come to Duke Law School as its 14th dean. The time has passed quickly, but as a community we have accomplished much. Here are some highlights that stand out to me:

In 2007, we began construction of Star Commons and the renovation to what is now the J. Michael Goodson Library. Both projects were finished and dedicated in November 2008. Professor Tom Metzloff and Senior Associate Dean Dick Danner, and others, did a marvelous job of conceiving and effectuating these projects that completed our physical plant with grace and elegance and provided new spaces for study, reflection, and communal interaction.

In the fall of 2007 we were re-accredited by the ABA with flying colors; the head of the review team noted that Duke Law School had the strongest student culture of any law school he had ever seen.

In 2008, the financial system came close to total collapse, in turn causing a dramatic constriction to the legal economy. The new employment challenges for our students caused us to redouble our efforts to provide opportunities to develop professional skills, through new courses, internships and externships, and other programs, and to expand career development support to assist our students in competing in a difficult job market. The Duke Law network of alumni sprang into action and has never been more important to our new graduates. We also have doubled the amount of scholarship assistance we offer, from \$5 million in 2007 to \$10 million in 2012, and have expanded our loan repayment program to assist graduates who wish to serve in the public sector.

In 2009, we launched Duke in D.C., combining a full-time externship in a government office or regulatory agency with a course taught by Duke faculty in Washington. This "integrated externship" model is a natural complement to our strong clinical programs. We now offer several integrated externships, including one with the Federal Public Defender in Raleigh. Our increased focus on government service is enhanced by our public service summer grant program, which provides grants to 2Ls who work in government positions or judicial externships and is generously supported by our graduate Rick Horvitz '78. These programs are a reminder of the strong tradition of public service that Duke Law faculty and graduates aspire to, a tradition embodied in the life of our esteemed colleague Robinson Everett, who passed away in June of 2009.

In 2010, a remarkable three of our graduates — Amy Mason Saharia '05, Allison B. Jones '07, and Garrick Sevilla '07 clerked on the Supreme Court for Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Clarence Thomas, and Samuel Alito, respectively.

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Three more are clerking now or will clerk on the Court in the next term. Our students do so much. They excel academically. They create pro bono programs, like the Veterans Assistance Project; they serve in our clinics and in other pro bono efforts; they represent clients on appeal as a result of court appointments; they study areas of need and conflict and travel around the globe to places such as Brazil, Haiti, Ghana, and Jerusalem to conduct research and pursue law reform. And they have had remarkable success: In 2010, two men who served long sentences for crimes they did not commit were released from prison because of the efforts of our Innocence Project and Wrongful Convictions Clinic.

In 2011, one of our star faculty members, Professor Lisa Kern Griffin, received the Distinguished Teaching Award by vote of our students. She then won the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Criminal Justice Section's award for the best paper by a junior scholar. Professor Griffin symbolizes the "triple threat" that each of our faculty members present: they are great teachers, scholars, and colleagues. In this same year we announced Stanley and Elizabeth Star's \$5 million gift, a matching gift that will create four distinguished professorships. It is the faculty, their scholarship, their teaching, and their dedication to one another and to our students that is at the heart of the Law School and that makes Duke one of the leading law schools in the country.

This brings me to the present and the future. We know that the years ahead will be filled with achievement, excitement, and unexpected challenges. The legal profession is changing and so will legal education. But the core mission of the Law School will not change. We are dedicated to teaching and studying law in its many contexts and forms, to preparing and training our students, to serving the profession, the nation, and the rule of law worldwide, and to taking our place within the scholarly community of the University.

Like most really good and special things, the Law School is the product of generations of effort and community caretaking by faculty, staff, students, alumni, and deans. I particularly acknowledge my wonderfully effective and helpful predecessor, Kate Bartlett. It has been a privilege to be a part of the Duke Law family these past five years and to work every day with such fine and creative people. I thank each of you for what you have done and will do for Duke Law School. I look forward to the future with optimism and high expectations for our continued excellence.

Sincerely,

David F. Levi

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Dean and Professor of Law