

From the Dean



DEAN DAVID F. LEVI

Dear Alumni and Friends,

2008 is now behind us. For all the excitement of the presidential election, the financial crisis marked 2008 as a difficult year, and many of us may bid the year good riddance. Yet at Duke Law we found much to appreciate, even celebrate, in this past year.

The November dedication of the J. Michael Goodson Law Library and the Star Commons was a marvelous event, highlighted by remarks from Justice Anthony Kennedy. With soaring windows overlooking campus, these inspirational spaces solidify the interdisciplinarity of the Law School's intellectual life and our central place within the University. Faculty and students from all across campus are now drawn to our building because it is so beautiful and inviting. It is good to welcome them here. We are indebted to J. Michael Goodson '66, Elizabeth and Stanley Star '61, and our friends at The Duke Endowment for their support and leadership in this project that has transformed our school. Those of you who have not seen the new building are in for a treat. Please come enjoy a cup of coffee or lunch in the Star Commons and tour the new Goodson Library. You will be very pleased.

Our international reunion in June underscored Duke Law's growing presence throughout the world. Alumni from as far as Israel and Chile came to Munich to renew their ties to Duke Law and participate in various programs on international higher education and globalization. We have an astonishingly interesting and far-flung group of international alumni who have great loyalty to Duke Law. Our LLM program is one of the very best, thanks to Deans Judy Horowitz and Jennifer Maher '83. The loyalty and support of our international alumni are among the great strengths of Duke Law School. With their assistance, we have a wonderful opportunity to build upon our existing international programs and to expand our international law faculty and student body.

The past year also was a very good one for scholarship at Duke Law. Our faculty published eight new books, including two that underscore our leadership in intellectual property: Professor James Boyle's *The Public Domain: Enclosing the*

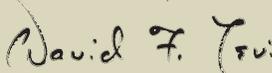
Commons of the Mind (Yale University Press), and *No Law: Intellectual Property in the Image of an Absolute First Amendment* (Stanford University Press), by Professors David Lange and H. Jefferson Powell. (Professor Powell also published another excellent book this year, *Constitutional Conscience: The Moral Dimension of Judicial Decision*.) The rigor and creativity of our faculty's scholarship is matched only by their dedication to students. Of this combination, we can all be immensely proud.

Still, for all our milestones, 2008 will be most remembered for the painful economic turbulence toward the end of the year. Thus far, Duke University and the Law School have weathered the storm. The endowment has suffered, but applications for admission to the Law School are up, continuing a recent trend. We are using resources strategically, and we will continue to seek ways to be more focused and efficient. But we will need to work very hard this year to maintain our momentum and to continue to pursue the ambitious goals we have set for the continued growth and excellence of our faculty, for the expansion of our curriculum, and for the additional financial and other support to our students.

If there is a positive way to view the current turmoil, it is perhaps this: This crisis has provided us with an unusual opportunity to teach and to learn. Many of our professors are focusing their teaching and academic writing on the crisis. For example, Professor Steven Schwarcz is in high demand as a speaker about the financial markets and has published prolifically on the credit crisis, both in academic journals and in the newspapers. His scholarship includes the leading legal article on systemic risk. Visiting Professor Bill Brown '80 relies upon his extensive experience in financial management from years with AIG, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley as he and his students analyze the financial markets and crisis and develop regulatory and economic solutions. On Dec. 4, we hosted — in our new Star Commons — an extraordinary conversation among some of the world's most important participants in the financial markets, all of them with a Duke Law connection: Gao Xiqing '86, president and chief investment officer of China's sovereign-investment fund; Stephen A. Schwarzman, chairman and co-founder of the Blackstone Group and father of a 2006 Duke Law graduate; and John A. Canning Jr. '69, chairman and co-founder of Madison Dearborn Partners. Led by our own Professor Jim Cox, their discussion of the global crisis and its origins covered history, culture, politics, and finance. It was a fascinating demonstration of what the Law School can do to bring academics and practitioners together to achieve a greater understanding of the problems we face.

We greet the new year with cautious optimism, with hope and determination. We believe that as a nation we will get through the challenges of today and tomorrow in major part through higher education. This is not the time to reduce our commitment to the education of the next generation, particularly the next generation of Duke lawyers, but rather to renew and even strengthen it. We will need them. They are incredibly talented, energetic, and hopeful. With the energy of our students, the insight of our faculty, and the experiences and influence of our alumni, Duke Law School will be a strong voice in the public policy debates that are about to begin. I look forward to 2009 and the opportunities it will bring.

With best wishes,


David F. Levi