

## Toward "Seamless" Solutions for Students

**SUSAN L. KRINSKY** joined the Francis King Carey School of Law last January as Associate Dean for Students and Student Services—responsible, as she explains it, for the entire student experience, from admissions to career development.



Susan L. Krinsky

**WHAT attracted you to Maryland and to this job?** I had lived in Baltimore before and loved it, so that was definitely a draw. But what really attracted me to Carey Law and this job was ... Carey Law and this job! The job has an unusual breadth, and I knew that would be a fascinating challenge. More important, it was made very clear from the initial contact that I would be an integral part of a top-level team here. As I interviewed, I knew this was a group of people with whom I really wanted to work. When I was in the building, there was a "buzz" about the place that made it even more exciting.

**WHAT are your short-term goals as you get to know Carey Law? How about longer-term goals?** Short term, my goal has been to learn as much as I can about this place and all its working parts. Longer term, I want this to be the best possible experience for students, which is what drew me here in the first place—the opportunity to make the experience both seamless and rich. I have an interest, maybe an obsession, in making processes and systems work really well and make sense to the people who have to use them, which in large part here is students. I like to make life easier for people, whether they are students, faculty, or staff.

The fact that I am overseeing everything from admissions through career development means I can help create a more rational, integrated experience for students. As an example, when the admissions office recruits students, they hold admitted student events, but once the students begin taking classes, student affairs is taking care of them. That could lead to gaps, but it can also lead to redundancy. By overseeing both, I can make sure that transition is much smoother.

**YOU have a master's degree in public health and taught a basic health course and a bioethics seminar at Tulane. What do you see as the connection between the legal and health**

**fields?** The thing about a legal education is that once you have that base, you see legal issues everywhere and in everything.

This new health care law is extremely complex, so in the health care industry, even in positions where bar admission is not required, the JD is an advantage, maybe even a necessity. I believe there will be more and more jobs for which the training that lawyers receive will be viewed as extremely valuable. In the health care industry, being able to parse through this very complex language, being able to figure out what it means, and understanding how to optimize the situation for patients, for physicians, and for other providers is critical.

**WHAT long-term changes do you see in the legal profession?** The legal industry has changed dramatically over a very short period of time. Not many law firms are going to be hiring 50 or 100 new lawyers a year like they used to, largely because clients have made it clear that they are not going to pay for it. As a result, we're going to be seeing very different employment patterns, as the market makes space for people who have this extremely valuable training. Employers will be looking for people who have law degrees and can analyze and reason and parse through difficult language and really provide value even if they're

### TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

I grew up on the south shore of Long Island, attended what is now Hamilton College, pursued a master's degree in health administration at Tulane, and then spent a year at Johns Hopkins Hospital in an administrative residency. I took a law-related course, and that's what drew me to law. I went to Yale Law School, practiced law in Washington, D.C. for a brief time, and then moved back to New Orleans, where I worked at Tulane Law School for almost 31 years.

not going into a courtroom and representing a client.

There remains a huge amount of unmet legal need in this country. I think we'll see more and more graduates going to smaller firms, starting their own practices, or finding other ways to fill that need. One of the nice things about the University of Maryland is we're a very good value. Many of our students expect that they're going to be doing something for real people and won't make \$150,000 a year right out of law school, though some will. ■