

AN **EXCITING ERA** BEGINS

DEAN KAREN H. ROTHENBERG

This issue of *JD* can barely contain all of the School of Law's good news. The excitement of a new building, new faculty, new initiatives, and pride in the achievements of faculty, students and alumni and the most selective entering class in our history are difficult to convey in print and pictures, but they are real. The most visible manifestation of our progress is the new building; the anticipation was palpable as we counted down to moving day.

Although the move back to our old address is exciting in itself, the real payoff will come with the first day of classes, when students will begin to benefit from one of the most technologically advanced



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and student-centered law school facilities in the country. I invite you to learn more about the technology of the new building in the story beginning on page 35.

In addition to preparing for the relocation, members of the law school community have been busy with other pursuits in the past six months. Read about two professors who have invited members of the local business community to be part of our legal learning process, taking their

seminars out into the real world—one to Venable, Baetjer & Howard, the other to the Maryland Technology Development Center in Montgomery County. Faculty, administrators, students and alumni pay homage in these pages to Professor Stan Herr, who passed away last fall. A number of public interest-minded students and alumni continue Professor Herr's commitment to public service—in particular, two recent graduates who have received

national fellowships, the 2002 Benjamin L. Cardin Pro Bono Service awardee and the 2002 Distinguished Graduate. Other alumni profiled in this issue include a local community activist, one of the School's oldest living alumni, and an alumnus who uses his skills on the basketball court to educate South African children about AIDS and HIV.

The School of Law's new Legal Resource Center for Tobacco Regulation, Litigation and Advocacy and the Maryland Intellectual Property Legal Resource Center are both described in the magazine's news section. You can read about visits to the School by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and Gov. Parris N. Glendening, as well as important conferences, forums and symposia, which have been organized by or involved many of our faculty and students.

The School has experienced another surge in applications for the coming academic year—almost 5,000 people applied for the 225 openings in the incoming class. This staggering 85 percent increase over last year is evidence that the School of Law's reputation is growing dramatically nationwide.

We've also made seven new appointments to the faculty: directors for the Maryland Intellectual Property Legal Resource Center and for the Legal Resource Center for Tobacco Regulation, Litigation and Advocacy, as well as extraordinary teachers and scholars specializing in private international law, terrorism and clinical education. We will profile each of these outstanding professors in the fall issue of *JD*.

The stories in this issue underscore our commitment to furthering the public interest through legal education, scholarship, technology, public service, and the development of public policy. As we turn the page to a new chapter in the life of the law school, that commitment grows ever stronger. ■