DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL,

I assume that you have already noticed our new logo for the Law School – it appears on this newsletter and on the enclosed window decal. It will be used as the identifying mark on all Law School correspondence, brochures and other materials. I expect that you may be wondering, why make this change?

Among the important goals that I have as dean are to enhance the national character and reputation of the Law School and to build pride among our faculty, students and alumni. Sargent Hall has been a tremendous asset in that effort, and we are continuing to use its many features for maximum advantage in attracting outside programs and conferences, and in recruiting students and faculty members. We have also undertaken a number of marketing initiatives to spread news about the good things that are going on at the Law School, through special brochures, the alumni magazine, dean’s letters to alumni and friends, and the Web site.

By improving our communications with alumni and with the professional and academic worlds, we will assure that perceptions of the school will catch up to the extremely positive reality of who we are and where we are headed. In closing the gap between perception and reality, we will materially enhance the professional opportunities that we will all have because of our association with the Law School.

Over the next several months we will be producing a variety of items like the window decal to display the new logo and we hope you will help the Law School by wearing and displaying them publicly and proudly.

I wouldn’t be comfortable marketing the Law School as we are, unless I was convinced that we have a wonderful “product” to sell. And indeed I am! Two of the most obvious examples of how well the school is doing are the extraordinary group of faculty members and incoming students who have joined the Law School this fall.
Our success in recruiting outstanding new faculty members reflects the attractiveness of Suffolk Law School as a place to teach and to develop one’s professional and academic career. Several have already distinguished themselves as full-time teachers and scholars at other law schools (including Harvard, Boston College, Tulane, American University and Arizona State); others are new to law teaching and bring outstanding academic credentials and practice experience.

Profiles of all of the new faculty members will appear in the next Suffolk Law alumni magazine. They include two associate professors (Renée Landers and Ilene Seidman), four assistant professors (William Berman, Kristen Carpenter, Jennifer Gundlach and Miguel Schor), and two Legal Practice Skills Instructors (Samantha Moppett and Melissa Johnsen). Given the space limitations here, I cannot adequately introduce you to all of them, so I will tell you about the two associate professors to give you a sense of the outstanding individuals we have added to the faculty.

Associate Professor Renée Landers has practiced since 1997 at the Boston law firm of Ropes & Gray, specializing in health law. She was a law clerk to Chief Justice Hennessey of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Renée taught at Boston College Law School before moving to Washington, DC, to serve as deputy assistant attorney general in the Office of Policy Development of the US Department of Justice and deputy general counsel in the US Department of Health and Human Services. She is the president-elect of the Boston Bar Association, and previously served as a member and as president of the Board of Overseers of Harvard University. She will be teaching courses in health law and administrative law.

The appointment of Associate Clinical Professor Ilene Seidman (along with two assistant clinical professors) was a significant step in the Law School’s commitment to enhance our clinical education programs. She comes to Suffolk with a national reputation in clinical teaching, gained during her 15 years of teaching at Harvard Law School. She served as a clinical instructor at Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, she was the creator and director of an AIDS practice group, and supervised student practice in the Battered Women’s Advocacy Project. Ilene has been a Visiting Clinical Professor at Boston College Law School, and has been a consultant to the law firm of Bingham, Dana, teaching litigation skills to associates. She is the co-author of “Lawyers for the Abused, Lawyers for the Accused: An Interfaith Marriage” published in the Loyola New Orleans Law Review. She will be directing Suffolk’s family advocacy clinic.
We have enrolled the most diverse and academically well-prepared incoming class in many years. Applications for admission to the Law School rose dramatically, nearly 25 percent, well above the national increase of 17 percent. Another positive indicator of the Law School’s attractiveness to prospective students is the extremely high percentage of admitted applicants who chose to enroll here: 44%. Through aggressive outreach and increased use of the Internet in recruiting students, we have increased the percentage of applications from other parts of the country and from students of color.

The new graduate degree program – LLM in Global Technology – has also made extensive use of the Internet in attracting students to its first entering class. There are 12 students divided evenly between full-time international lawyers (from Sweden, Mexico, Serbia and China) and part-time American lawyers, including several Suffolk Law alumni. The program has received ABA approval and is off to an extremely strong start under the leadership of Faculty Director Stephen Hicks and Administrative Director Patricia Davidson.

The emerging national, and international, character of the Law School is reflected in these positive developments in admissions. In addition, there is no doubt that the weak economy is a contributing factor to the surge in law school applications nationally. This economic downturn has created tremendous challenges for our students and recent graduates looking for employment.

Career Development is an area in which your assistance can be beneficial to the career aspirations of our students and young alumni/ae. Please make yourself available to provide them with valuable career advice and mentoring. If your firm, business or government agency is hiring full-time attorneys or if you are looking for summer associates or law school clerks, please contact Richard Dufault, recruitment coordinator in the Career Development Office at 617-305-1675 or email rdufault@suffolk.edu.

ALUMNI NEWS

There are several important alumni events and changes in our alumni calendar that I want to bring to your attention. For further information about any of these described below, please contact our alumni relations office at 617-573-1999 or email amueller@suffolk.edu.

FENTON TRIBUTE DINNER, APRIL 30, 2003

Please hold the date of Wednesday, April 30, 2003 for a very special event in the life of the Law School – a fundraising dinner to honor John E. Fenton, Jr., our former dean and current Distinguished Professor of Law. This gala event will be a tribute to an extraordinary professor, dean and judge. We are extremely grateful that trustee Gerard Doherty has agreed to chair the dinner committee.
The recently published 2002 Alumni Directory provides comprehensive personal and professional information.

REUNIONS AND ANNUAL ALUMNI DINNER

Classes ending in 2 or 7 will have their reunion dinner on Saturday, October 26, 2002. We have added events during the day at the Law School, including a luncheon and several afternoon activities, in order expand opportunities to see friends and to get reacquainted with the Law School. Check out the schedule of events at www.law.suffolk.edu/alumni/reunion.

We are changing the timing of future reunions and the annual alumni dinner. In order to increase attendance and promote more events as part of reunions, we will be holding them in the late spring rather than in the fall. This means that the 2003 reunions, for the classes graduating in years ending in 3 or 8, will be held in early June 2003.

The 2003 annual alumni dinner will be held in the fall of 2003. This was its traditional time of year, and this switch from the spring to the fall will allow us to focus full attention on the tribute dinner for John Fenton, Jr. in April 2003.

DINNER TO HONOR RICHARD LEON, '74

November 19, 2002 will be an evening to celebrate the appointment of Richard Leon, '74, by President Bush as a judge on the US District Court for the District of Columbia. The event will be held at the University Club in Washington, DC. It will be a wonderful opportunity to express congratulations on his appointment and our appreciation for the various ways in which Judge Leon has served the Law School, as a founding member of both the New York City and Washington, DC, alumni chapters, and as University trustee.

2002 ALUMNI DIRECTORY PUBLISHED

With more than 17,000 Suffolk Law School graduates in one comprehensive volume, the recently published 2002 Alumni Directory is a wonderful reference tool. The directory provides comprehensive personal and professional information and lists alumni alphabetically, by graduation year, by geographic location, and by practice areas.

If you don't have a directory, it's easy and free to register online and search the Web-based database for the same information. To register, go to www.law.suffolk.edu/alumni and select “Law Alumni Online Community” along the left menu bar. This secure, online community is available only to alumni of Suffolk Law and is a very valuable Web-based means of searching for fellow alumni.

During the upcoming school year, I hope that you keep in close contact with the Law School and with your alumni colleagues.

Best wishes,

Robert H. Smith
Dean and Professor of Law