DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL,

Suffolk Law School's commencement is always a highlight of the academic year, and this year's was particularly so. In an outdoor pavilion on Boston Harbor, a crowd of 4,500 celebrated the achievements of 430 graduating JD students, and the first 5 graduates of our new advanced degree program, an LLM in Global Technology. The commencement speaker, former attorney general Janet Reno, was enthusiastically received by the graduates and their families, as she spoke of the satisfactions and challenges of civic engagement and public service.

I was particularly impressed by the fact that the values we celebrated, and the students who received special recognition, exemplified the best of what Suffolk Law School is, as well as what it is becoming. We are a school that is attaining national and international recognition for our academic programs, at the same time that we remain true to our traditional mission of providing access and opportunity to excellent legal training and professional success.

To illustrate my point, let me describe the two students who graduated first in the day division and first in the evening division. Katerina Callahan, JD '03, grew up and completed secondary school in the Ukraine. Despite the fact that English is her third language, she was very successful in college and in law school. Based on her academic achievement at Suffolk Law, graduating summa cum laude and first in the day division, she will be a judicial clerk for the Supreme Judicial Court this coming year, and the following year will clerk for the US District Court of Massachusetts. Katerina maximized the opportunities that Suffolk Law School provided her. Her story certainly would make Gleason Archer, founder of Suffolk Law School in 1906, extremely proud.

There are many other students who are coming to Suffolk Law with backgrounds and careers that Gleason Archer never would have envisioned. Maryanne Trevisan, JD '03, who graduated first in the evening division, is an excellent example. She is a Canadian citizen who received a BS degree in molecular genetics and biology, with distinction, from the University of Toronto. She earned a PhD in medical biophysics...
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from the University of Toronto, and was a post-doctoral fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. She has taught graduate courses and published extensively in the area of medical biophysics. While she studied at Suffolk Law as an evening student, she worked as a patent agent and technology specialist at the law firm of Wolf, Greenfield and Sacks in Boston. She graduated summa cum laude, with a Concentration in Intellectual Property.

Maryanne, and the five foreign lawyers who received LLM degrees, represent the evolving character of Suffolk Law, one that is attracting highly accomplished students, nationally and internationally, based on our specialized academic programs, renowned faculty, spectacular new building and innovations in using technology in legal education.

TRIBUTE DINNER FOR JOHN E. FENTON, JR.

The other major event since I last communicated with you was the wonderful dinner in honor of John Fenton on April 30, 2003. More than 800 alumni and friends came together to share their stories of how John Fenton has touched their lives, and to pay tribute to the values that he has exemplified in his career as a practicing attorney, law professor, judge and dean of the Law School. I am particularly pleased to report that the dinner raised net proceeds of more than $400,000 which will be used to provide recognition and financial assistance to students who are pursuing public service summer internships and public service careers. We are indebted to John, for allowing us to honor him in this way and in directing the proceeds to such an important purpose. I would also like to thank Trustee Gerard Doherty, JD 60, and Associate Dean John Deliso, JD 72, for their leadership in organizing this memorable occasion.

FACULTY

In these letters, I have often boasted about the leadership roles that our alumni play in the legal profession. I am pleased to point out, as well, that our faculty members often make significant contributions of their time and energy to the organized bar. This year, for example, Associate Professor Michael Avery will become the President of the National Lawyers Guild; Associate Professor Renée Landers has just assumed the presidency of the Boston Bar Association (the first African-American woman and first law professor in that position); Associate Professor Cecil Hunt is the President of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association; and Professor Valerie Epps is the Vice-President of the American Branch of the International Law Association.

Our newest appointments to the faculty were made to continue strengthening our practical skills courses. We appointed three clinical faculty members, who come to these newly enhanced positions with extensive practice and clinical teaching experience.
Diane Juliar is an associate clinical professor who will direct the prosecution clinical program. She was the Chief of the Family and Community Crimes Bureau of the Massachusetts Attorney General's office and has taught in Harvard Law School's prosecution clinic. Colette Tvedt was a visitor at Suffolk Law last year, and received a permanent appointment as an assistant clinical professor of law to direct the criminal defense clinic. Previously she was a staff attorney for the Committee for Public Counsel Services. Bernadette Feeley has been appointed assistant clinical professor of law to direct the civil and judicial internships for Suffolk Law students. She was a judicial law clerk and an assistant district attorney before teaching at Suffolk Law in the Legal Practice Skills (LPS) program and serving as Dean of Students from 1998 to 2001.

In addition, one of our visiting appointments this year is a clinical teacher—visiting assistant professor Tamar Birckhead, who will be supervising student practice in the criminal defense clinic. She is an honors graduate of Harvard Law School who has served as a public defender in both the state and federal courts.

Our other visiting faculty members are important additions to the school, bringing academic and professional distinction to their teaching and other contacts with students and faculty.

Nathan Crystal is a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law, coming to us from the University of South Carolina Law School, where he is the Class of 1969 Professor of Professional Responsibility and Contract Law. He is the author of widely adopted law school casebooks in professional responsibility and contracts.

Jane Kirtley is a nationally recognized scholar in communications law and will be the Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law for the spring semester. She is the Silha Professor of Media Ethics and Law at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota. She previously served as the executive director of The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

Rita Heimes is a visiting assistant professor teaching courses on Internet law and international aspects of intellectual property in our LLM program. She previously taught at the University of Maine Law School and was director of the Technology Law Center.

One of our experienced faculty members received recognition last spring when he was granted tenure. Professor Elbert Robertson has taught torts and antitrust at the law school since 1997, and has written articles and been a speaker in national programs on antitrust, law and economics, and civil rights. Prior to law teaching, he practiced antitrust law with a private law firm and was a legal advisor in the Office of the General Counsel, US Communications Commission. He is a graduate of Columbia University School of Law, The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and Brown University.
ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Reunions
We were very pleased with the expanded format and new timing for our reunions. Alumni from the classes ending in 3 and 8 returned to the Law School in June for two days of social and professional programming, which included a CLE course by the Law School's Center for Advanced Legal Studies and a dinner at the John Joseph Moakley Federal Courthouse.

The reunions this coming year, June 11-13, 2004, will be particularly special for the classes ending in 4 and 9 because they coincide with the 50th reunion of David Sargent, long-time professor and dean of the law school, and now President of the University, as well as his classmate, Nicholas Macaronis, Chair of the University Board of Trustees. One reunion class, graduates from the class of 1969, has already committed itself to making a unique contribution to the Law School. Members of this class have formed a Scholarship Committee, under the leadership of Lewis A. Sassoon, JD '69, and James Sokolove, JD '69, to raise funds for a permanent $500,000 endowment in the name of the class of 1969 for student scholarships.

RI reception honors alumni appointed to Supreme Court
Suffolk Law School has long had a strong representation of graduates in Rhode Island, and that was never more evident than after the two recent appointments to the Rhode Island Supreme Court. Francis Flaherty, JD '75, and Paul Suttell, JD '76, were sworn in this year, and join Justice Maureen Goldberg, JD '78, to form a majority of that five-member court. The Law School will be celebrating their appointments at a reception in Providence on Thursday, October 16, 2003. For more details, contact Diane Frankel Schoenfeld, Director of Law Alumni Relations, at 617.305.1999 or at diane.schoenfeld@suffolk.edu.

We welcome Shelagh Foley O'Brien as the Law School's new major gifts officer. She has extensive experience in both alumni relations and development from her work at the College of the Holy Cross, Regis College, and the Community Counseling Service Corporation. Shelagh will be working closely with Associate Dean John Deliso, JD '72, and Diane Frankel Schoenfeld, Director of Law Alumni Relations.

I hope you share the sense of renewal and excitement that accompanies the start of a new school year.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Smith
Dean and Professor of Law