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Suffolk University Law Dean's Alumni Newsletter, Spring 2006

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SPRING 2006



DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL,



As many of you may already know, I will complete my service as dean of the Law School in June 2007. The next academic year, which will be my eighth as dean, will be a very exciting and busy one. The celebration of the Law School's Centennial, and the public kickoff of an ambitious fundraising campaign are two noteworthy upcoming events. We plan to take maximum advantage of these events to advance the national character and academic reputation of the Law School, and to enhance our traditional strength in preparing our graduates to be highly skilled, ethical, and service-oriented lawyers.

A transition after the Centennial year will work well for the School and will allow me to pursue my interests in the US Supreme Court and in mediation. After a sabbatical, I will return as a faculty member at the Law School, and will enjoy increased contact with students, both in and out of the classroom.

It has been a great pleasure to work with so many wonderful alumni over the years, and I hope to be able to express in person my thanks for your contributions to the success of the Law School. You are a very loyal and giving community, and I am proud of my association with the Law School and what we have accomplished. I look forward to working with you as dean during the next year, and as a faculty member thereafter, to continue our progress in achieving our goals. Before going into more detail about the Centennial Celebration, I would like to share with you some recent notable accomplishments.

INTERNATIONALIZATION OF LEGAL EDUCATION

Earlier this semester I was invited to speak on the "Internationalization of Legal Education" at a conference in Salzburg, Austria. It was exciting to describe some of the innovative programs that we have developed at Suffolk University Law School, which put us in the forefront of a national trend in legal education. We are preparing students for careers that increasingly will bring them in contact with clients and lawyers from other countries, and with legal and policy issues that have international and comparative law dimensions.

Scholarship also helps spread the academic reputation and visibility of the Law School, reinforcing our efforts in admissions recruiting and career placement to build a stronger national profile and network of alumni.

As I sat on the plane on my way home, it occurred to me how far this Law School has come since its founding by Gleason Archer in 1906. The name Suffolk Law School reflected its initial aspirations, to educate students from the Boston-area to practice law locally.

While we still have a strong New England base of students (70 percent of our full-time students), we also draw students from throughout the United States, and from a wide range of foreign countries, including: Albania, Barbados, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, China, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Holland, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Uzbekistan, United Kingdom, and Vietnam. And, our graduates now practice in all 50 states and in 28 foreign countries.

I encourage you to read more about the increasingly global perspective of legal education in an article in the next issue of *Suffolk Law*, as well as on our Web site, www.law.suffolk.edu/academic/abroad.cfm.

APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR CHARLES KINDREGAN AS THE DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF LAW FOR RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Another significant change in the evolution of the Law School has been the increasing importance of faculty research. Suffolk continues to be a school that values excellent teaching and preparation for practice, along with this more recent emphasis on research and scholarship.

Research contributes to the improvement of the legal system and to the development of legal doctrine and public policy. It informs and broadens the perspectives for classroom instruction and discussions. Scholarship also helps spread the academic reputation and visibility of the Law School, reinforcing our efforts in admissions recruiting and career placement to build a stronger national profile and network of alumni.

A significant milestone in this progression of the Law School is the recent appointment of Professor Charles Kindregan as the Distinguished Professor of Law for Research and Scholarship. This is the first time that a faculty member has been appointed to promote and facilitate research and scholarship at the Law School. Throughout his nearly 40-year career at Suffolk, Professor Kindregan has been a prolific scholar, producing a wide range of articles and books for both academic and professional audiences. He serves as an excellent mentor and role model, a true "teacher-scholar." We greatly appreciate his willingness to serve the Law School in this important capacity.

ENHANCING STUDENTS' PREPARATION FOR PRACTICE

During the last several years, the Law School developed a multi-faceted strategy to improve the preparation of our graduates for the bar examination. The 2006 graduating class was the first to have the benefit of all of these initiatives. The 2006 Massachusetts Bar Examination passage rate for Suffolk Law School's first-time takers was 90 percent, our highest rate in 25 years, and Suffolk graduates exceeded the statewide pass rate both for first-time takers and for all test-takers.

We have also focused on the important skill of written communication and have reviewed our curriculum offerings and staffing to strengthen the professional development of our students. We have increased the credit hours for the first year Legal Practical Skills (LPS) course, have created three new LPS professor positions since 1999 in order to reduce the student-teacher ratio, and have been able to attract and retain experienced and skilled legal writing professors by upgrading their status and job security. We are adding several upper level writing courses as well, which are required for students with lower grades at the end of first-year and strongly encouraged for all students.

RAPPAPORT CENTER FOR LAW AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Another strong legacy of Suffolk Law School is instilling and nurturing a commitment to public service. We have substantially increased the financial support for students working in lower-paying public service positions: we now have more than 70 summer fellowships for public interest internships and have more than 25 post-graduate loan repayment stipends, including the Fenton Fellowships supported by the proceeds from a dinner honoring former Dean John E. Fenton, Jr.

The most dramatic reinforcement of this legacy was a \$5 million gift from the Jerome Lyle Rappaport Foundation and Jerome and Phyllis Rappaport in October 2006. This transforming gift established the Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service at Suffolk Law School, dedicated to educating, supporting, and mentoring students with an interest in public policy and public service. In addition, their generous donation created the first endowed chair in Suffolk's history, the Jerome Lyle Rappaport Chair in Law and Public Policy, and will support summer internships in public service through the Rappaport Fellows Program in Law and Public Policy.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

I am pleased to report that our efforts to expand the national character and academic reputation of the Law School have not gone unnoticed. In one ranking by an increasingly influential Web site for online posting of faculty scholarship (SSRN), Suffolk's professors were ranked 52nd, of more than 180 law schools. In the more traditional magazine rankings, the Law School also moved up this year, and our Health and Biomedical Law Concentration earned particularly high marks, ranking 17th among similar programs at law schools throughout the United States.

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CELEBRATING OUR CENTENNIAL

I was pleased to share with many of you a tremendous variety of special events and distinguished guests to help mark and celebrate our centennial anniversary. For me, there were three that were particularly memorable:

- Former President George H. W. Bush giving the keynote address at the University's Centennial Convocation;
- Robert S. Mueller III, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, speaking about "The State of Our Security at Home," just days before the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; and
- US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg speaking at the Law School as part of our Centennial Conference in January, "Globalization and the US Law School: Comparative and Cultural Perspectives, 1906–2006."

A SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

A true cornerstone of Suffolk Law School for more than 25 years, Law School Registrar Lorraine Cove was recently named assistant dean and registrar. Dean Cove's appointment recognizes the critical role she plays as a member of the senior leadership team of the Law School, and the breadth of her many contributions to the academic and administrative success of Suffolk Law. I know that you share in my enthusiasm for this well-deserved appointment.

WELCOMING ALFRED C. AMAN, JR.

I am honored to welcome Alfred C. Aman, Jr. as the next dean of Suffolk Law School. Fred Aman is an internationally known scholar, director of the Indiana Institute for Advanced Study, and former law school dean at Indiana University in Bloomington. He will assume the duties of dean effective July 1, 2007.

Dean Aman's appointment was announced by President David Sargent in January, and since that time, Fred and I have worked closely together to ensure a smooth transition. I am excited about Dean Aman's leadership of Suffolk Law School as we begin our second century of excellence.

Finally, I want to thank you for your tremendous support during the last eight years. With your energy and commitment to Suffolk Law School, together we have enhanced the strong programs and national character of this outstanding institution. I have been privileged to partner with you in these efforts as dean, and look forward to continuing to work with you as a faculty member in support of Suffolk Law School in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Smith
Dean and Professor of Law