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Advancing with a Clear Vision

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I am delighted once again to have the opportunity to thank all of you for the incredible role you play in the continuing success of Indiana University School of Law—Bloomington. Your time, expertise, and donations are absolutely critical to the School. Each year, the Dean’s Report recognizes our alumni and friends who demonstrate their commitment to the School by making a financial investment. Each and every dollar directly improves the quality of the educational experience for our students and faculty. And each donation enables the School to fulfill the vision set forth in the Strategic Plan: “to be a highly visible and influential law school whose faculty, students, and graduates advance knowledge, justice, and the public good in the state, in the nation, and in the world.”

In this issue, we are proud to report the many ways the Law School, through your generosity, advances the public good. Indiana Law has a proud tradition of promoting public interest work and a keen understanding of the needs of students who wish to pursue careers in the area. A renewed dedication to clinical education and externships offers students the opportunity to learn valuable practical skills while aiding community members who cannot afford private legal representation. The Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF), which raises funds for public interest summer fellowships, provides sound evidence of this commitment as the School’s largest student organization.

Our faculty members engage in pro bono representation of individual clients and organizations. They present and plan internationally-attended conferences and symposia, and through a breadth of centers and projects, they are engaged in targeted, innovative research and outreach. This reach spans the globe. I witnessed our scholarship and legal knowledge at work in Liberia last spring and returned with an even stronger confidence in the work of new programs such as the Center for Constitutional Democracy in Plural Societies (CCDPS). Over the summer, PILF and other students joined this effort by traveling to Burma and Liberia with the CCDPS to aid in their mission of constitutional reform.

These endeavors are critical to our strategic goals, and private support is crucial in achieving our vision. Unrestricted dollars support every aspect of the Law School and give us the flexibility to host conferences on timely issues, invest in projects and centers, and promote our faculty’s groundbreaking scholarship.

In this Dean’s Report, you will also read the stories of donors who have helped us advance the public good on a more personal level. They are establishing scholarships, supporting...
clinics, and leaving bequests that establish loan repayment assistance programs for graduates who want to practice public interest law.

The most exciting donor story this year is undoubtedly that of Gene Shreve, Richard S. Melvin Professor of Law (see page 9). Professor Shreve has honored the Law School by announcing a $1 million planned gift tailored to meet the needs of students pursuing careers in public service. And the impact of Shreve’s gift will be doubled; IU’s “Matching the Promise” program doubles funds for this gift in perpetuity.

I cannot express how grateful the School is that one of our own has made such a significant commitment to our future students. This is truly a transformative gift that will further assure Shreve’s legacy as a teacher, mentor, and public servant at the Law School.

I am also delighted to announce a $400,000 gift from the Balfour Foundation, which supports our Family and Children Mediation Clinic, our Community Legal Clinic, and minority scholarships (see page 5). Your annual support in this area is critical as we seek foundation and grant funding for clinics and research centers. A high level of annual alumni participation in the Fund for Excellence demonstrates your faith in the institution, and it gives our external supporters confidence in our success.

Even as we celebrated the changes that have energized the Law School, we said goodbye this year to two graduates who gave significant parts of their lives to public service. Judge Jesse E. Eschbach II, JD’49, passed away in October 2005. He spent 38 years on the federal bench, first as a district court judge in the Northern District of Indiana, and then on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. I was fortunate to have clerked for Judge Eschbach after graduating from Law School, and I know I speak for my fellow clerks — many of them Indiana Law alumni — when I express my deepest admiration for him. He was truly an outstanding judge, mentor, and teacher.

Judge S. Hugh Dillin, JD’38, passed away in March 2006 at the age of 91. Judge Dillin was appointed to the Southern District of Indiana by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 and served as trial judge until he stopped taking cases at the age of 87. He presided over the desegregation of public schools in Indianapolis and was known for his no-nonsense style in the courtroom. Judge Dillin established a scholarship at the Law School, and we are deeply grateful to his friends, family, and colleagues, who have made memorial gifts. His legacy will live on at the Law School in myriad ways.

Again, on behalf of the Indiana Law community, I extend my sincere gratitude to all of you for the many ways in which you support the School. Your support makes possible the progress we have made in implementing the Strategic Plan. I hope to see many of you in the coming year so that I can thank you in person.

All my best,

Lauren K. Robel, JD’83
Dean and Val Nolan Professor of Law