Dear Alumni and Friends:

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Indiana University Maurer School of Law

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear alumni and friends:

The Indiana University Maurer School of Law reached several significant milestones in 2009. As we celebrate our successes and prepare for the challenges of the future, I would like to highlight a few of our accomplishments and say thank you to the many alumni and friends who made them possible.

The visionary generosity of one outstanding alumnus, Michael S. Maurer, JD’67, has given the School a new name and will provide much-needed scholarship assistance for generations of students. A generous gift from the Lilly Endowment has enabled us to hire five outstanding faculty members whose timely scholarship will affect the profession and society for years to come. The Matching the Promise capital campaign has raised more than $90 million – 300 percent ahead of our goal with one year to go. In order to make the most of these incredible gifts, we are preparing a new strategic plan that will guide the School through the next decade.

This year’s entering class is not only the strongest academically in the School’s history, but is also strong in terms of diversity and personal achievement. Our students face many challenges and opportunities as the profession adapts to the demands of a global economy. To help them prepare for this new environment, we have launched our Center on the Global Legal Profession and forged partnerships with schools in Korea and India. A new first-year course on the legal profession provides students with the tools they need to identify and evaluate important career choices and to develop their own distinctive strategies for career development.

Our strategic plan is built on the following vision: to be a highly visible and influential law school whose faculty, students, and alumni promote knowledge, justice, and the public good around the state, the nation, and the world. I am deeply grateful to our extraordinarily committed volunteers and...
donors who have helped make our vision real and tangible.
Your investments create incredible momentum. The IU Maurer School of Law has risen in the national rankings and is now recognized as a top 10 public law school.

And yet there is much to be done. The challenges of the recent economic downturn have greatly affected the School, our students, and indeed our profession, and we turn to our alumni and friends for help now more than ever. As the honor rolls in this publication attest, the IU Maurer School of Law continues to build on its strong tradition of volunteerism and philanthropy. Our alumni provide financial support, serve on advisory boards, judge moot court, donate scholarships, teach classes, and mentor our students in myriad ways.

This level of support is especially necessary and appreciated in the career and professional development arena. Law students across the country are looking for employment in a legal market that shed 2,000 jobs in October 2009 alone. Fortunately, our students are connected to a creative, energetic, and engaged group of alumni and friends who offer crucial advice and assistance.

During our Sept. 25 Alumni Summit, we surveyed 70 members of our alumni advisory boards, including our Board of Visitors; Alumni Board; the Intellectual Property, Business Law, and Environmental Law Program Advisory Boards; and the Latino and Black Law Student Alumni Advisory Boards. These alumni reported that they have worked closely with our Office of Career and Professional Development to provide shadowing opportunities, resume reviews, networking assistance, and career coaching. In addition, these volunteers worked independently with students as mentors, on-campus or on-location recruiters, and provided other forms of active career assistance. This group is representative of an entire network of advocates for our students. I cannot thank you enough.

I know that I will be calling on all of you in the future for your counsel and assistance as the IU Maurer School of Law faces the challenges that the new decade is sure to bring. The School has benefited greatly from your investments of time and treasure, and I am looking forward to working with all of you as we capitalize on the momentum we have built together.

All my best,

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