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Law School Deans

Fall 2004

From the Dean

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Recommended Citation

Robel, Lauren K., "From the Dean" (2004). *Lauren Robel (2002 Acting; 2003-2011)*. 9.
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FROM THE DEAN



Last year, I became the first graduate in modern times to serve as dean of the Law School. As dean, I am often called upon to put into words what it is that makes the Indiana University School of Law—Bloomington one of the nation's leading public law schools.

In the first place, the Law School is committed to continually improving all that we do, while retaining our tradition of collegiality and a mutually supportive environment.

At the heart of the school are our distinguished faculty members, who are researching and defining the major legal issues of our time in fields as diverse as human rights, information technology, the environment, and international business transactions. Nationally recognized in their disciplines, they also share a deep commitment to teaching and ensuring student success. Our students and faculty learn from one another and build strong relationships that often last well after graduation.

We also benefit from being able to share the resources of a major research university. Our students can enroll in classes at one of our top-ranked sister schools or pursue joint degrees in business, environmental science, journalism, public policy, or telecommunications, or even design individualized joint programs with other schools on the campus. And Bloomington is a uniquely vibrant setting that combines the idyllic virtues of a small town with the intellectual, cultural, and recreational benefits of a university community.

But what really distinguishes the School of Law is the amazing group of people who become first our students, then our alumni. If you return to Bloomington to walk through our halls, you will see a diverse and talented group of men and women socializing, sharing ideas, working in clinics, leading student organizations, or participating on moot court teams.

And when I leave these halls to visit with you in the cities and towns where you live and work, I likewise see a diverse and talented group of men and women who are engaged in every facet of the law and of their communities.

Each year, during Alumni Weekend, we honor a few among our many extraordinary alumni. This year, five distinguished graduates will be inducted into the Academy of Law Alumni Fellows.

Longtime state senator **J. Leslie Duvall**, LLB'49, led the reform of the Indiana criminal code while in office. He is a former chair of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and is of counsel with Lewis & Kappes,

Indianapolis, where he focuses on energy and utility law. **Barbara J. Kelley**, JD'73, currently a partner with Kamlet Shepherd & Reichert, Denver, has had a distinguished career focusing on corporate and banking matters, and was a member of the Christopher Commission, headed by Warren Christopher and appointed by former Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley to investigate excessive use of force against minorities. The late **Stephen O. Kinnard**, JD'72, was chief mediator for the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals and a prominent activist on behalf of death row inmates. A tireless supporter of the School of Law who has served on both our Alumni Board and Board of Visitors, **Jacqueline A. Simmons**, JD'79, is vice president and general manager for Reilly Industries Inc., managing all aspects of the business, which boasts \$250 million in global sales and manufacturing facilities on three continents. **Thomas L. Stevens**, JD'55, who specialized in insurance and general corporate law, was chair and CEO of Lord Bissell & Brook, Chicago, when he retired in 1995, having started as an associate with the firm in 1958.

This Alumni Weekend, we will also honor the recipients of the Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes graduates who have distinguished themselves in service to their communities or to the Law School. **Andy Buroker**, JD'89, of Krieg DeVault, has provided exceptional service to the American Heart Association. **Jeff Pankratz**, JD'91, focuses his practice at Venable on affordable housing and community development transactions and is currently on a leave of absence working with an international human rights organization in southern India. **Rapheal Prevot**, JD'84, of the NFL, is being honored for his extraordinary commitment to the Law School, manifested in his service on both the Alumni Board and Board of Visitors and in the internships and mentoring he has provided to countless students and graduates. **Jeff Richardson**, JD'77, of Abbott Laboratories, helped develop and now runs Step Forward, an Abbott program dedicated to providing health services to children affected by HIV/AIDS. **Taylor Segue**, JD'83, of Howard & Howard, Detroit, serves on the board of directors for Fannie Mae and is chair of the board of Orchards Children's Services, Michigan's largest private foster care and adoption agency.

I extend my warmest congratulations to the new fellows and award winners and look forward to seeing them on Oct. 1 & 2 during Alumni Weekend 2004, along with all of our truly extraordinary alumni.

— *Lauren K. Robel*, JD'83
Dean and Val Nolan Professor of Law