“Subjects ranged from the persistence of white privilege to cultural differences in the disposition of human remains to inequities in standardized testing in schools,” she says. “These seemingly dissimilar topics are linked to the inherent power, privilege, and prestige associated with being white in this country. ‘Whiteness’ sets the terms on which racial identity is constructed. It is widely unrecognized by white people, but is highly apparent to people of color. While whites rarely consider their racial identity, nonwhites live in constant awareness of being different from the white majority.”

Thomas Ross, law professor at the University of Pittsburgh, discussed the link between “whiteness” and media coverage of our national consciousness during the September 11, 2001, tragedy. “The essential face of the victims was an overwhelmingly white face. … The suffering of those outside the (white) narrative of 9/11 had no place,” he notes.

Several socioeconomic factors help sustain the existence of white privilege, according to Stephanie Wildman, professor of law at Santa Clara University. Whites control the cultural discourse of racial equality, and they operate within a “comfort zone” that renders “whiteness” “normal.”

Ohio State professor John Powell notes, “Racial identity is a ‘complex set of relationships.’ Whiteness cannot exist without Blackness; ‘we are radically mixed.’”

**Lawyers and Jurists in the 21st Century**

Held November 12–13, 2004, *Lawyers and Jurists in the 21st Century* celebrated the anniversary of the Universal Congress of Lawyers and Jurists convening in St. Louis during the 1904 World’s Fair. Along with the School’s Whitney R. Harris Institute for Global Legal Studies, co-sponsors were the American Society of Comparative Law and Saint Louis University’s Center for International Comparative Law.

“The conference was an especially fitting celebration of the centennial of both the 1904 Universal Congress and of comparative law in the United States,” says conference co-organizer John Haley, the Wiley B. Rutledge Professor of Law and director of the Harris Institute. “It represented not only the first joint endeavor by the comparative and international law programs of St. Louis’ two law schools, but it was also the first meeting by the American Society of Comparative Law in St. Louis.”

Haley commended the panelists’ expertise and diversity: “The panels reflected the changing faces of the legal profession during the past century. For instance, the panel on the ‘Global Role of Lawyers’ comprised three women. One is a highly respected human rights lawyer from Nigeria; another, who was born in China, is a partner of a Seattle-
based firm with offices in Shanghai and New York City; and the third is an American-born lawyer who currently works as a partner in the London office of a major St. Louis firm.”

He continues, “The quality of presentations and the range of topics were impressive.” Session topics included a reflection on the centennial anniversary of comparative law, judicial and criminal procedure reforms, the global role of lawyers, the worldwide context of legal ethics and responsibility, harmonization of civil procedure, and the influence of international law and international tribunals.

**Planning Reform in the New Century**

Land-use planners, lawyers, and professors convened December 3–4, 2004, for a conference on **Planning Reform in the New Century**. Co-sponsored by the School’s Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and the American Planning Association (APA), the conference considered critical issues in land-use planning and model legislation recently proposed by the APA. Papers presented at the conference will be published as an APA book.

Participants explored urban sprawl; the need for affordable housing; and the roles of political leadership, regulatory streamlining, and comprehensive planning.

“Speakers stressed the need to re-examine existing programs and to face the hard choices that must be made if planning is to succeed as a social strategy,” says conference organizer Daniel R. Mandelker, the Howard A. Stamper Professor of Law and an expert on planning and zoning law. “A review of ‘smart growth’ issues, for example, pointed out the need to develop a coherent strategy, while Anthony Downs of the Brookings Institution called for affirmative efforts at the local level to meet demands for affordable housing.”

In addition, Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson of the Wisconsin Supreme Court outlined the judicial view of planning issues, including the tension between government regulation and the protection of property rights. United States Representative Marcy Kaptur of Ohio, who is a city planner, delivered a keynote address urging planners to make their policies known to congressional policymakers. Paul Farmer, APA executive director, closed the conference with a review of current planning issues that need attention.

“We brought together some of the best experts in the country to share their ideas and perspectives on the planning reform issues of the day,” Mandelker says. “We were very pleased by the quality of the presentations and by the high attendance and interest in the conference proceedings.”

Marcy Kaptur (above) and Paul Farmer (left) delivered keynote speeches at the Planning Reform conference.