THE LAW SCHOOL CELEBRATED the more than two decades of service of Dorsey D. Ellis, Jr. at a dinner in his honor on April 5, 2008. Ellis assumed emeritus status as of July 1, 2008. Now dean emeritus and the William R. Orthwein Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus, he will continue to teach one course a year and is serving as chair of the faculty advisory committee for the new Transnational Law Program (TLP).

Among his achievements during his tenure as dean from 1987 to 1998, Ellis is credited with galvanizing support for and overseeing the building of Anheuser-Busch Hall, recruiting many talented faculty members, strengthening the student body, expanding the curriculum, and forging new and stronger ties with alumni. Following his deanship, Ellis returned to teaching full time; furthering his scholarship in the areas of torts and antitrust; lending his expertise to numerous professional and legal education initiatives; and helping to bolster new international endeavors at the law school, including the launching of the TLP.

Toasting Ellis's many accomplishments were Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton; Dean Kent Syverud, the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor; Thomas Lowther, JD ’62, partner at the Stolar Partnership and a member of the National Council; Leila Nadya Sadat, the Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law and director of the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute; Gerald Gibson, president of Maryville College (where Ellis received his undergraduate degree and serves as chairman of the board of directors); and Mark W. Smith, JD ’86, University assistant vice chancellor and director of career planning and placement (who worked for Ellis in student and career services).