A Farewell from Dean Syverud

On January 12, 2014, I will be leaving Washington University School of Law, and assuming a new role as Chancellor and President of Syracuse University. After eight years as Dean here and more than 16 years as a dean, I find myself excited by the new challenge at Syracuse, and eager to use all I have learned from my time at Washington University. Syracuse is a fine university with more than 20,000 students and a dazzling array of programs and opportunities. It is also in upstate New York, where I grew up and want very much to give back.

Nonetheless, Washington University School of Law always will hold a special place in my heart. Thanks to the hard work of generations of wonderful people, this is a great law school. During my tenure as Dean, I have been blessed by generous and supportive alumni, dedicated faculty and staff, and kind supporters from across the university and the St. Louis community. Our students have been the greatest blessing of all, and the privilege of teaching here every semester is one I find very difficult to surrender. I am looking forward to teaching two more courses before I go: my online Negotiation class for foreign lawyers and judges, and in early January, my Intersession class for first-year students and transfer students. Our students here are the best!

As the dean search process unfolds, Dan Keating is a fine choice for Dean. He is a proven leader with sound judgment who cares deeply about our school. A longtime faculty member, he has twice served as Interim Dean, as well as Vice Dean and Associate Dean. I am also grateful that Dan’s leadership team will include Vice Deans Andrew Martin and Susan Appleton. Andrew has been a spectacular leader in the Dean’s Office this past year, and Susan is stepping up once more when the school needs her. Finally, I am confident that Chancellor Mark Wrighton, Provost Holden Thorp, and the Dean Search Committee will select a new dean who will embrace the mission of this law school and work to make it even stronger.

This issue of Washington University Law Magazine reflects upon much of what makes this a great school, as it explores the questions: Why Law? Why Wash U? Why Now? I hope you will enjoy reading the spotlights on our alumni and the examples of our school’s innovation, excellence, and impact. We are also proud of the accomplishments of the three alumni featured in our profiles and firm spotlight: Julie Selsberg, Gene Zafft, and David Bernhard. Additionally, this issue highlights the scholarship of several of our faculty members through work with the American Law Institute and in empirical law.

Finally, we pay tribute to the legacy of Kathy Brickey, who passed away in June. Her lasting impact in the field of white collar crime and her dedication to the numerous students whom she influenced with her passion for teaching are well deserving of our deepest gratitude and respect.

As I finish my last weeks as Dean and transition to my new role, I am grateful for all you have accomplished here. Through challenging times, due to the efforts of so many, we are a school that has grown in stature and effectiveness. Although I will not be able to personally thank each of you, I am truly grateful for your kindness and support.

Warmest wishes,
Kent Syverud

SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR NEW DEAN

Daniel Keating, the Tyrrell Williams Professor of Law, will serve as Dean, while an eight-member committee identifies candidates for the next Dean of the law school. The search committee members are: Chair, Edward F. Lawlor, Dean of the Brown School and the William E. Gordon Distinguished Professor; Howard Cayne, JD ’79, a partner at Arnold & Porter and member of both the law school’s National Council and the university’s Board of Trustees; Cort VanOstran, third-year law student and SBA president; Peggie Smith, the Charles F. Nagel Professor of Employment and Labor Law; Hillary Sale, the Walter D. Coles Professor of Law and professor of management; Pauline Kim, the Charles Nagel Professor of Law; John Drobak, the George Alexander Madill Professor of Real Property & Equity Jurisprudence; and Matthew Gabel, professor of political science in Arts & Sciences.