By Kent Syverud, Dean of the Law School, Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor, and Associate Vice Chancellor of Washington, D.C., Programs

This issue of Washington University Law Magazine emphasizes the vital importance of scholarship at our school. Washington University School of Law produces great scholarship, as well as great lawyers. The two are closely related. A great law school is measured by its impact in the world. I know of no great law school that lacks faculty members who develop pathbreaking ideas—whether they are found in the form of books, articles, statutes, treatises, or briefs. It is surely more expensive to support a school when it has both a research and a teaching mission, and money could be saved if a school restricted its expectations to great teaching. But as this issue of the Washington University Law Magazine shows, even if teaching were the sole measure of a law school, the greatest teaching often includes deep investment of both students and faculty in the development of law through scholarship.

As you read this issue of the magazine, we hope you will become better acquainted with several elements of the scholarly environment at Washington University Law. First, we highlight four important new books written by our faculty. Second, we note cutting-edge empirical research spanning topics such as employment discrimination, the role of international courts, judicial pay and performance, corporate fraud, justice in legal negotiation, and judicial ideology. Third, we include students who have published high-quality articles through the mentorship of faculty. These examples of transforming scholarship by both faculty and students help capture some of that combined sense of community warmth and intellectual liveliness that makes our school so special. They also acknowledge the crucial link between scholarship and teaching, which is so critical to keeping legal education current in a rapidly changing professional environment.

Other important highlights of this issue include profiles of our five new faculty members—Scott Baker, Robert Kuehn, Mae Quinn, Hillary Sale, and Brian Tamanaha—and of the exciting contributions of our first Senior Professor of Practice, Charles Burson, and new Faculty Fellows, Sarah Jane Forman and B. Don Taylor III. Despite difficult economic times, we are grateful to have been able to attract these highly accomplished teachers, scholars, and practitioners. Also in this magazine, Professor Michael Greenfield brings his own unique perspective to our now regular “Why I Teach” column.

Finally, this issue spotlights new developments at the school, including those in our Crimes Against Humanity Initiative, in environmental and sustainability practices, in our academic partnership with the Brookings Institution, and in a major conference focusing on federal budgetary matters. Additionally, we are proud of the achievements of our alumni, including those featured here: immigration attorney Rochelle Fortier Nwadibia, environmental and corporate law attorney Mike Ford, and family law practitioner David Littman.

As you read about some of our recent scholarly achievements, new faculty, latest endeavors, and outstanding alumni, I hope you will learn more about what has allowed us to forge ahead during challenging economic times. We continue to strive to be at the center of outstanding legal education and scholarly work.