This issue of Washington University Law Magazine celebrates our growing national impact. During the recent economic turmoil, many law schools have looked at ways to tighten their belts and have increasingly focused internally. While we have gone to great lengths to continue to adhere to responsible budgeting and strategic planning processes, we also have looked to areas where the law school can capitalize on its momentum and excel—both in St. Louis and in the nation and world.

Our students now come from nearly 40 states, and our alumni are engaged in careers throughout the country. Our national reach also extends to programs and initiatives generated within the law school that have a national appeal. This issue of the magazine highlights several of our innovative programs.

The law school is benefiting directly from Washington University’s alliance with the Brookings Institution coupled with the University’s new facilities in Washington, D.C. We have greatly expanded opportunities for our students in the nation’s capital, including offering the Congressional & Administrative Law Program year round. Recently, the partnership enabled Professor Melissa Waters, as a Brookings visiting scholar, to further her research on the effects of international law on the death penalty in the United States. We are also pleased to be working with Steven Jackson, the University’s new director for the Washington, D.C., academic program.

This issue of the magazine also spotlights other national projects, including student and faculty work on the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, faculty contributing their expertise to an ABA project in the nomination process of Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan, outreach efforts with the DirectWomen Institute in New York and the Delaware Supreme Court, leadership in a national discourse on clinical interference and academic freedom, and faculty expertise in the Model State Administrative Procedure Act. These projects are just a few of the initiatives illustrating the scope and variety of the law school’s national endeavors.

Other staples of this issue include the now regular Why I Teach column by Professor John Drobak and alumni feature articles on sisters Rika and Rina Yano who practice on opposite coasts, attorney and philanthropist Cash Nickerson, and Tomea Mersmann, our associate dean for strategic initiatives.

As you read about our students, alumni, and faculty, I hope you will join us in celebrating the many spheres of influence that extend beyond the walls of Anheuser-Busch Hall. This is an exciting time to be involved in legal education, as we focus on being a center of great teaching and learning while supporting growing ties with the national and international legal communities.