ANIEL L. KEATING, the Tyrrell Williams Professor of Law, was honored for his more than 16 years of service to the law school as dean, associate dean, and vice dean during a celebration on October 15, 2009.

Amid the rousing presentations and heartfelt memories, the themes of Keating’s tremendous loyalty, collegiality, generosity, and good humor arose repeatedly. An avid sports fan, he was referred to as the No. 1 draft pick, the franchise player around whom the team was built, the most valuable player, and everybody’s favorite coach.

While serving as dean and/or assisting three other deans, Keating has made valuable enhancements to the International Law Program, Clinical Education Program, scholarship and stipend initiatives, and alumni relations. In addition to helping recruit two deans, he also has taken time to mentor new faculty, while stewarding the school with grace and strategic insight.

Along with his skills as a nimble administrator, Keating was lauded for his productivity as a scholar and for his outstanding teaching. Throughout his administrative roles, he has continued to teach each year while authoring or co-authoring leading casebooks and articles in commercial transactions, sales, and bankruptcy.

“Dan is a terrific leader for Washington University. It has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to work with him, and I certainly look forward to his continuing commitment as a great faculty member,” noted Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton in a video tribute. “He is a person who has exhibited enormous loyalty to Washington University, for which I am very grateful. Throughout his leadership roles at the law school, he has continued to build respect among his faculty colleagues, among other leaders at the University, and among our students. He also has continued to be a truly outstanding scholar and a great teacher.”

Also toasting Keating’s many accomplishments were Dean Kent Syverud; Assistant Vice Chancellor Mark Smith, JD ’86; Associate Dean David Becker; National Council Chair Steven N. Rappaport, JD ’74; and Professors Katherine Goldwasser and Karen Tokarz. Videotaped tributes were given by former Dean Joel Seligman and Dean Emeritus Dorsey D. Ellis, Jr.

Keating’s crowd-pleasing “rebuttal” was delivered in the form of a PowerPoint, “10 Hard Lessons I Learned in the Dean’s Office (With Help from Dilbert):”

1) Everybody wants to see the dean.
2) No matter how busy you are, the dean is even busier.
3) The reward for doing good work is more work.
4) The location of the vice dean’s office (next to the dean’s office) is not an architectural coincidence.
5) When solving problems, the devil is in the details.
6) You’re only as good as the staff who support you.
7) Avoid the Strategic Planning Committee, if at all possible.
8) Faculty members do not enjoy being constrained by rules.
9) Faculty members do not enjoy being constrained by budgets.
10) Step down before you burn out.

Keating, who was succeeded as vice dean by Professor Peter Joy on January 1, 2010, has returned to full-time teaching. He will be on sabbatical in 2011–12. In recognition of his extraordinary contributions, law alumni, faculty, administrators, and friends have created the Keating Family Endowed Scholarship.