This issue of Washington University Law Magazine pays tribute to one of the law school’s most beloved faculty members, David M. Becker, upon the milestone of his 50 years of teaching. During the more than two years of planning for this celebration, as we worked with key organizers—David’s dear friend Gene Kornblum and alumni Alan Bornstein, Tatjana Schwendinger, and Brad Winters—as well as so many others, I learned an amazing amount about David’s legacy. He truly has touched the lives of thousands of students and by extension hundreds more in our community.

As I listened to the myriad memories and anecdotes about David, what struck me most were not only David’s gift for teaching and molding young lives, but also his resiliency and his ability to shift with the times. The school that David joined here nearly 50 years ago is a very different one from our school today, and it is an understatement to note that the climate surrounding legal education has vastly changed. What David teaches us, beyond the lessons of Max and Myrtle Bibo and “how to think like a lawyer,” is that we can adapt and excel while also maintaining our core values. Like David, we are a school that values the best of what a legal education can provide within a caring and dynamic community.

David also has been a strong advocate for giving back, as witnessed by the many programs that bear his name: the Becker Public Interest Fund, the David M. Becker Teacher of the Year Award, the Career Services Office Becker Project, and now the Becker 50th Scholarship Initiative. The scholarship initiative is part of the law school’s campaign to raise a minimum of $55 million, in conjunction with the university’s Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University.

Also highlighted in this issue of the magazine are our school’s goals for Leading Together, which envisions support to continue our trajectory toward becoming a truly global law school. Vital to this will be financial support for faculty, critical funding for student scholarships, and the ongoing need for the Annual Fund, as it supports so many of our key programs. We are truly grateful for the generous assistance of our alumni and friends, including the gifts of an endowed professorship from Caroline and Howard Cayne, an endowed visiting professorship from Yvonne and Joe Cordell, and the legacy gifts from the estate of Warren Maichel and from the William R. Orthwein, Jr. and Laura Rand Orthwein Foundation.

Representative of our school’s core values are our alumni, two of whom we feature in this issue: Meredith Perkins in her leadership role at Enterprise Holdings in St. Louis and Michael Millikin who heads the legal team at GM in Detroit.

Also featured are other areas of interest at our school, such as faculty scholarship, including faculty law review excerpts by Professors Adam Badawi and Hillary Sale; the work of Professors Pauline Kim and Andrew Martin in creating an accessible database of 2,300 EEOC cases; and our new Semester-in-Practice program allowing our students to intern anywhere in the country.

As you read this issue, I hope you will join us in celebrating David Becker, supporting our campaign during difficult times for law schools, and reaffirming our core values while we strive to continue along a path of improvement at our school. Despite the difficult climate surrounding us, I firmly believe this is a great time to become a lawyer, especially a lawyer who receives the unprecedented training our school provides from dedicated teachers like David Becker, as well as those who have followed in his footsteps.