

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

DEAR ALUMNI, CLARK SOCIETY MEMBERS, AND FRIENDS: *Twenty years ago, on August 27, the J Reuben Clark Law School opened its doors. Twenty years is a long time, but to many of us it seems like yesterday. Some of you may recall our early days at St. Francis School, the first two years, in fact, until we built the beautiful building we have now. Some of you enjoyed sitting in the "Great Hall," literally at the feet of expert teachers like Woody Deem, Dallin Oaks, and Monroe McKay. Certainly all of us have benefitted from the Law School and our association with it, whether that association has been throughout the school's twenty-year history or only during the last few years.* ☞ *In some ways, it seems longer than twenty years since the Law School began—so much has happened. In the Law School's first decade, we earned accreditation by the American Bar Association, received membership in the Association of American Law Schools, and were chartered as a chapter in the Order of the Coif. The American Inn of Court movement, which now has over 125 Inns nationwide, started with its first Inn at the BYU Law School in 1980. Members of our first two graduating classes were selected as clerks by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr.* ☞ *Our tradition of excellence continued through our second decade, with students doing extremely well in national moot court and trial advocacy competitions, editing three excellent scholarly journals, teaching in local high schools, and providing pro bono legal service through LawHelp. In our twentieth year, another graduate, Stephen M. Sargent, was selected to clerk for Chief Justice William Rehnquist, bringing our total of Supreme Court clerks to eight.* ☞ *The success of our students has been matched by the quality of our faculty, who have distinguished themselves with thorough and highly significant scholarship. Our graduates have demonstrated their strong training through consistently passing bar examinations, by succeeding in private and corporate practice and in government service, and by faithfully serving their communities.* ☞ *The Law School has matured, our first dean now president of Brigham Young University and our third dean now provost. Several faculty have retired, and two of our much-loved members, Woody Deem and Terry Crapo, have passed away. Three former students have joined the faculty, and a sense of continuity and progress is evident.* ☞ *The last twenty years have, no doubt, also been significant in your own lives as you have built both your families and your careers. Most of you have established yourselves in successful law practices in large and small firms, in cities and in rural areas. Some of you have gone on to serve as mayors, state legislators, county attorneys, judges, and law professors. One of your number, Bill Orton, is serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. Perhaps most important is the happiness you have found in service to your families, to your communities, and to your Church. It is in the individual lives of our graduates that the strength of the Law School is most evident.* ☞ *This year promises to be exciting. Besides our annual activities and symposia, we have planned various events to commemorate the Law School's 20th anniversary, including a Founders Day Convocation, a visit from United States Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, and a series of classes and lectures on constitutional reform by professor-in-residence Judge Malcolm Wilkey. The Law School has also been selected to host this year's Western Regional Trial Advocacy Competition.* ☞ *We have planned our activities this year in a format that we hope will provide you with as many opportunities as possible to come back and visit. Take a close look at the calendar on the page opposite. I think you will find the activities worth fitting in your schedule. From the excitement of the national moot court competition to the ease of the Annual Alumni/Law Society Dinner, we invite you to once again enjoy your association with one another.* ☞ *A closing note. This is a year of remembering, a chance to look back with fondness on the joys, hopes, and experiences we've all shared. It is also a year of renewals, an occasion to reestablish old ties and to build new ones.* ☞ *We want you to know that we consider each of you—students, graduates, nongraduate members of the Law Society, and benefactors—equal shareholders in the Law School's success. In the words of our founding dean, Rex E. Lee: "In our hands we hold the responsibility of seeing to it that the next [20] years—and the next and the next in perpetuity—will be just as good as the first [20]"* —DEAN H. REESE HANSEN