



DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

New Year's for the Law School occurs in August—not January—with new students starting, 2Ls and 3Ls returning from summer externships and clerkships, and faculty feeling revitalized after a summer of research, writing, and presenting. We are eager to start the great and ennobling project of legal education anew.

Part of our eagerness is surely a result of another summer full of construction dust and hammering from three major building projects that move us ahead on our campaign to bring light to the Law School. The east entrance of the building now opens into a spacious memorial lounge where the Career Services and Registrar's Offices were. The ceiling has been opened to the third floor, adding views and natural light from east to west. This lounge, which features a central fireplace, will welcome visitors and students and provide reception and conversation spaces. We have also added new classrooms to the library on the second floor and new offices on the fourth floor. I hope you will drop by if you are in Provo.

As we open up the Law School to the beauty of our natural surroundings, we hope to spur more discussion and more gathering, for it is such interactions that are at the heart of legal education. Our hope is that those interactions—along with what transpires in the classroom—will be a prelude and a foundation for a lifetime of learning and of hard and empathetic thinking about difficult problems.

Guido Calabresi, first a professor and then dean at Yale Law School and now a senior judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, visited the Law School in April as our graduation speaker. His convocation address is included in this issue. Although he is one of the nation's most famous legal scholars—the founder, along with Ronald Coase, of the field of law and economics—the real hallmark of his tenure at Yale was his ability to befriend and mentor students. He did so for Professors Brett Scharffs and Justin Collings while they were students there. The respect and gladness I saw in the three of them as they reunited at the Law School was inspiring to me and a reminder of the very best part of being a faculty member.

Teaching at its best means entering into the lives of others. It happens in the classroom, in offices, and informally in many other settings. I am grateful to have faculty colleagues who see interactions with students as a blessing of their profession rather than as a burden. This has been a hallmark of BYU Law School, and I hope it always will be. Our faculty members devote time to our students in ways that many others do not. Those who invest in the Alumni Association and in the Law Society are responding to the same impulse to mentor students and young lawyers. Thank you for the mentoring you do—hiring and training our graduates, teaching them in externship settings, judging competitions, and serving in our mentor program. Your help makes a great difference to the Law School.

In addition to Judge Calabresi's address, the articles, excerpts, and speeches on the pages that follow are, I hope, another reminder of why the project of building a great LDS law school and the lifelong project of learning and study are worth our very best efforts.

Warm regards,



JAMES R. RASBAND

