



June 2013

Dear Southwestern Alum,

This is no doubt an unprecedented period for higher education, law schools and the legal profession, one that presents both major opportunities and challenges. It coincides with a new era at Southwestern as we embark on our second century with tremendous promise. We can see this momentum reflected in the achievements of our alumni and students, the excellence in teaching and research of our faculty, and the developments in our academic program and campus enhancement efforts.

I am proud to have served as interim dean of Southwestern this past academic year, and I thank you for your enthusiastic support and investment in this wonderful law school. I hope you all share this pride, which manifests itself on a personal level, and was beautifully expressed by one of our current students, Vivian Rivera:

“Choosing to come to Southwestern was one of the best decisions I ever made. I wake up every day and I am excited to get to school - to see my colleagues and my professors, and I am excited to learn. Southwestern is like a second home to me. I feel comfortable, accepted, and despite the stress that comes with being a law student, I feel at ease because I know that everyone is on the same team – *my* team.”

OUR GRADUATES AND STUDENTS

Over the past year, Southwestern alumni continued to demonstrate their influence as civic leaders, talented lawyers and gifted entrepreneurs. Among our numerous graduates in leadership in public service are a newly elected member of the California State Assembly, the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles County Courts and the two Prosecutors of the Year named by the Los Angeles County Bar Association. In the private sector, they include a *California Lawyer* Attorney of the Year and an ABA Distinguished Environmental Advocate. Our alumni were prominently among the top intellectual property attorneys and the leading entertainment and media power lawyers recognized by entities such as *Variety*, *The Hollywood Reporter* and the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, as well as the annual *Superlawyers* and *Rising Stars* listings.

While all of your accomplishments reflect well on the law school, your involvement with and support of the next generation of Southwestern lawyers is also essential. The generosity of graduates has enabled us to move forward successfully with our New Era Campaign that has included three extraordinary leadership gifts from alumni each exceeding \$1 million. Many of you helped us recruit exceptional law school applicants by donating considerable time to our alumni interview program, the only one of its kind on the west coast. Others made a concerted effort to hire Southwestern graduates for apprenticeship positions or permanent employment, providing invaluable mentoring and career opportunities to new lawyers. As alumni, you are part of an extensive and effective network for our students and each other, and provide compelling role models as leaders in the profession and the greater community.

During the 2012-2013 year, our students demonstrated the strength of their Southwestern training in competitions, leadership posts and community outreach. It was another banner year for students in our honors programs, who proved once again that they are among the best in the nation: Out of 25 moot court, negotiation and trial advocacy interscholastic competitions entered, Southwestern teams earned 8 First Place team, brief or oralist awards, among other honors, and advanced in regional rounds to compete in national and international competitions. Our Law Review and Law Journal hosted symposia on 40 years of LGBT legal activism, and on the future of children in international law that attracted some of the nation's top legal scholars.

Our students also gave back to the local community in meaningful ways. Last year, students filled over 420 externship placements, and approximately 100 students participated in our clinical programs. Over 250 students volunteered through Southwestern's Public Service program, collectively providing more than 10,000 hours of pro bono public service to underserved populations in California. Our students gave back through extraordinary programs like the Hoover Elementary School Mock Trial Program and toy drive, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, Teen Court, Adoption Day and our Small Claims Clinic, among many others. And students also gave back to the school: More than 70% of the graduating class donated to the 2013 Class Gift, sending an important message about their commitment in the school's future.

OUR FACULTY

Southwestern's faculty are caring mentors, talented scholars, and dedicated teachers. They also routinely shape public debate and policy in legal education. This year, two of our faculty members, leaders in curricular reform and the legal profession, were named among the top ten "most influential individuals in legal education" by the *National Jurist*. Our faculty produced scholarship in a variety of cutting edge areas, including books on civil procedure, labor law, law school curricula, legal ethics, torts and urban development. Their articles appeared in leading law reviews, such as *BYU Law Review*, *DePaul Journal of Health Care Law*, *Fordham International Law Journal*, *Fordham Law Review*, *Fordham Urban Law Journal*, *George Mason Law Review*, *George Washington Law Review*, *Hastings Law Journal*, *Iowa Law Review*, *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, *Notre Dame Law Review*, *University of Missouri-Kansas City Law Review*, and *Vanderbilt Journal of Entertainment and Technology Law*, among others. Media sought out our faculty for their expert commentary on antitrust, evidence, executive compensation, first amendment, foreign investment, health care policy, high profile trials, gay rights and mass torts.

We have benefited greatly this year from the addition of outstanding new faculty. Professor Ryan Abbott is an attorney and physician who teaches in the areas of torts, health law and intellectual property. Professor Priya S. Gupta, a former member of the faculty at Jindal Global Law School in India, teaches Property, and Law and International Development. Professor John Heilman, a veteran of the Whittier Law School faculty, teaches Criminal Law, Evidence and courses in the Academic Support Program. Professor Vivien T. Montz, recently of counsel to the firm of Siegfried, Rivera, Lerner, De La Torre & Sobel in Florida and former faculty member at the University of Miami School of Law, teaches Legal Analysis, Writing and Skills. Professor Jessica Berch, a former litigator at Perkins Coie teaches Civil Procedure, and Jay Gendron, a 20-year veteran executive at Warner Bros., teaches courses in entertainment business affairs and an entertainment production practicum.

OUR PROGRAMS

Our relationships with the Claremont Colleges and other higher education institutions have continued to deepen. This past December, Southwestern announced a new collaboration with the Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences to offer a Certificate in Bioscience Industry Law and Practice. Through the new program beginning next fall, KGI students can take courses at Southwestern in intellectual property law, patent and trademark law, and regulatory law as it applies to health care and the bioscience industry. And students from Southwestern can take courses at KGI in the areas of technology management, entrepreneurship, and bioscience related industry dynamics. A number of outstanding students are also taking advantage of our JD/MBA program with The Drucker Graduate School of Management, including the accelerated 3-year option based on our two-year SCALE program. Our partnerships will soon include new “3-3” programs with California State University schools, enabling students to earn their BA and JD degrees in six years, rather than the usual seven.

Southwestern also continued to receive national recognition for its curricular innovation. Early in the year, the school was recognized for being one of the top 20 schools in the nation for curricular innovation. While other schools are just now recognizing the benefits of providing practical legal education, Southwestern has been a leader. This year, an example of our new courses is the Entertainment Production Practicum, whose students have already received their first production credits. We also continued developing our Windows into Practice courses, which now teach students how to establish and manage their own solo or small firm practices.

Southwestern sets the trends that other law schools follow. A number of new two-year programs have recently been launched at schools around the country. While condensing the length of time it takes to complete the JD, these programs do not capture Southwestern’s unique and highly respected cohort-based model of small classes and skills-based approach that has been the hallmark of the SCALE program for nearly 40 years. Other aspects of Southwestern’s curricular innovations are being emulated elsewhere, such as our January Intersession, a one-week term offering specialized one-unit courses with a skills or practice focus. We will continue to be that nimble institution that can identify and implement important innovations in legal education well ahead of the curve.

We were also recognized for our continuing commitment to diversity and celebration of multiculturalism. The *National Jurist* listed us as 15th in the nation for our support of diversity, and Southwestern was one of only two law schools to be among the 48 recipient institutions of the first annual Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. Illustrating this important aspect of the Southwestern community, we had more African-American and Latino-American law students enrolled than any law school in California. And more Southwestern students received Mexican American Bar Foundation scholarships than any other law school.

OUR CAMPUS

It was a banner time for campus enhancement as well. Most notably, it was this year that we began (and finished) construction on a new student residential complex, a unique amenity among law schools. The Residences on 7th include 133 fully furnished units, ranging from studios to two bedrooms, and can accommodate more than 150 students. By this August, our first student residents will be enjoying a secure, upscale living environment, just steps from their classes in this wonderful new “living-learning village.”

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE COMING YEAR

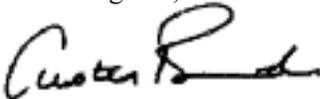
We ended the year on a high note: After a national search, the Southwestern Board of Trustees recruited a tremendous new dean to lead the school. Susan Westerberg Prager, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) and former dean of UCLA School of Law, will begin her term here in Fall 2013. Already a trailblazer many times over, Dean Prager will be the first woman to serve as dean in the law school's 100+-year history. As Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said: "We are pleased to welcome back to Los Angeles the nationally distinguished lawyer and academician Susan Prager. With Susan at its helm, Southwestern Law School will continue to be one of the great and most diverse trailblazing legal institutions that provides so many of this State's most distinguished judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and partners in top law firms."

With the promise that comes with a distinguished new leader, and as much as last year saw tremendous gains, our law school also faces challenges. The economy remains weak, and so too is the legal job market. While our placement rates are similar and in some instances better than our peers, we seek to do more for our recent graduates. We continue to need to aggressively fundraise to increase the amount of scholarships we can provide students and reduce the cost of education. We seek to raise money to continue our campus expansion plans to support our ever expanding clinical and experiential programs.

If you have already given to Southwestern this year, please know that your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you have not already given, please consider making a gift this year. If this was a difficult year for you or you've recently graduated, this may not be the time for a large donation; however, to help us increase our participation rate, even a small, symbolic donation is significant. But getting some skin in the game is important. If you have succeeded and done well, please consider making a larger contribution. Your gifts make a tremendous difference for the school and our students.

Again, I thank you for your support of Southwestern and your gracious encouragement during my tenure as dean. I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that this unique and remarkable law school realizes all of its great potential.

Warm regards,



Austen L. Parrish
Interim Dean