President Hanna Gray
In a 1987 article entitled "Why Deans Quit," Paul Carrington, former dean of Duke Law School, described the role of a law school dean as "that of community fireplug." Among the many problems faced by the dean, Carrington pointed in particular to the limited support a law dean ordinarily "will receive from university leadership." Certainly, my many conversations with colleagues at other institutions confirm this observation. I have often heard deans of other law schools lament the constant strain of their relations with the "university leadership."

I am pleased to say that, for at least the last fifteen years, this has not been so at the University of Chicago. From the very outset of her tenure as President, Hanna Gray has recognized that the University of Chicago's Law School is one of the jewels in the University's crown. She has at every turn given generously of her time, her energy and her counsel. When the Law School needed her blessing to expand the faculty, Hanna was there. When the Law School needed her support to enlarge the D'Angelo Law Library, Hanna was there. When the Law School needed her approval for additional student financial aid and higher faculty salaries, Hanna was there. When the Law School needed her advocacy to amend the University's statutes to establish the new title "Clinical Professor of Law," Hanna was there.

Due in large measure to Hanna's enthusiastic and always gracious support, the University of Chicago Law School is a stronger institution today than it was when she assumed the presidency fifteen years ago. In her own, uniquely clear and defined vision of the central role of legal education and scholarship in a university community, she has remained true to the vision of William Rainey Harper, Robert Maynard Hutchins and Edward Levi. She has left a legacy for which the students, faculty, alumni and friends of our Law School will forever be grateful.

Thanks, Hanna.