GREAT EXPECTATIONS
by Dean Douglas G. Baird

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eat events in life often encourage us to look to the past as well as to the future, and to give thanks to those along the way. And so it is the generosity of Arthur Kane's gift of a building to house the Law School's clinical legal education programs that gives us a chance to reflect on where we have been as an institution.

REMEMBERING THE PAST

The Law School has always resisted the trends of the moment and possesses a unique character that remains constant across time. In 1902, the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago asked John D. Rockefeller to "guarantee $200,000 for the erection of a building for the Law School." That building, now part of the Graduate School of Business, housed the Law School for many years. Rockefeller became the first "friend" of the Law School.

By the 1950s, we had outgrown our first home, and many alumni and friends joined to provide the new Laird Bell Law Quadrangle at the University. On May 28, 1958, Dean Edward Levi '35, Chief Justice Earl Warren, and Glen Lloyd '23 laid the cornerstone. Always looking forward, Dean Levi mandated that the cornerstone's contents be opened exactly fifty years later, a date he and all deans since have carefully kept free on their calendars.

In the 1980s, generous gifts from Dino D'Angelo '44 enabled the Law School to expand the library building to double the space for books, and to provide offices for moot court and the student journals. Gifts from Benjamin Gould '37 and others resulted in the construction of student computer labs, networks, and the technology needed as legal education encounters cyberspace.

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PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Once again, the Law School faculty, staff, and students are in need of a bit more elbow room. In 1957, Dean Levi turned to Edwin F. Mandel to create the first law clinic in the nation housed at a law school. Even they did not anticipate the success the program would enjoy. Now with Arthur Kane's $3 million dollar gift, along with Marilyn Karsten's gift of $250,000 and an anonymous donation of $500,000, the Law School will be able to complete Dean Levi's vision of the modern law school. As illustrated on the cover of this magazine, the Arthur Kane Center for Clinical Legal Education will be a seamless addition to the Laird Bell Quadrangle. I hope you will return to the Law School in the fall of 1998 as we celebrate its completion.

GIVING THANKS

At the turn of the century, one man's commitment to education could not only build a law school, but could endow a university. Such philanthropy may return in the next century, but until then, we must continue to rely on our loyal graduates and friends to support the Law School and its ongoing programs.

Our most generous donors, who help fund buildings and endow chairs and scholarships, also give annual support to the Fund for the Law School. We depend crucially on the broad support the Fund enjoys, especially by a core group, now numbering several hundred, who each contribute $2,500 annually. Join them in recognizing our Law School's rich past and charting its future course.

The Kane Center's opening is only two years away and, although it is too early to reveal the details of our celebration of the Laird Bell Quadrangle's first half century, I encourage you to follow the example of the deans and save the date—May 28, 2008.