

# Message from the Dean

Dear Friends,

I receive many compliments about our *Law School Record* and about the effort we put into our publications. The comments come mostly from readers who favor print over other media, and who have a professional eye for stylistic changes, but also from correspondents who frequent our



website and faculty blog, and who have multiple points of contact with the Law School. Our readers are not like those of other magazines. Communications experts tell universities and other clients to pick one to three messages, and then to saturate the intended audience with versions of a few points. Repetition is good, we are told, for it is a matter of competition

with other purveyors of messages. (But even reading over these two sentences makes me wince at the prospect of an entire campaign with such repetition and condescension). I hope it goes without saying that we prefer our communications to be interesting, with a mixture of ideas and Law School news, even if that means that we are less "effective" in communicating our "message." I confess that our admissions materials strive to be slicker, and they do repeat the buzzwords, but also the reality of intellectual intensity, fun, and great classroom teaching. But in communicating with graduates, the goal is not sales but rather maintaining your lifelong attachment to ideas and to the University of Chicago Law School.

With this goal in mind, we toy occasionally with yet more frequent "e-briefs" and letters, and we rely increasingly on electronic communications. We know that we need to keep your trust regarding content; if we repeat and bore, you will stop opening our missives. A redesigned website will soon help you navigate our materials, and it would be nice if

readers could search the archives. I suspect that most of our readers are reasonably informed, because interspersed with the ideas we send your way is news of institutional change. Did you know that we now have one of the country's most generous public interest support programs? (You will soon learn that it is about to get even better). Did you know that our building renovation project is near completion? (You will soon see that the fountain in our "front yard" is no more). Did you know that our Bigelow Fellows are among the most sought after candidates in the academic teaching market (read on!) and that we rank second in the nation, in *per capita* terms, in producing Supreme Court Clerks (we've been reporting that point of pride for years, and you have been kind enough not to question whether *per capita* is really the right measure)? Did you know that the Law School Musical was *not* started when you were in Law School (unless you were here in the early 1950's)? If you knew these things, you must have learned them from a variety of communications. And if not, now you do — and, besides, I would rather you knew about the latest work of our students and faculty on reforming the foster-care system or on the apparent and relative advantages of elected and appointed judges — ideas you can also read about in these communications. We welcome your feedback and ideas regarding the ideas we teach, explore, and advance — as well as our means of communicating with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Saul Levmore". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Saul Levmore