Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends:

One of the joys of a dean is seeing the ways in which our students embrace complexity, take on difficult intellectual challenges, and learn over the course of their three years to apply this knowledge in the real world. For many, the hands-on learning that fosters this evolution begins in the Kane Center, where our extraordinarily dedicated clinical faculty works tirelessly to teach the essential skills of advocacy, litigation, appellate, transactional, and policy work. They push our students to see past the obvious, to navigate layers of context, and—perhaps to students’ initial dismay—to work through draft after draft after draft, or moot after moot after moot, until they have achieved precision.

There are two people in particular whose leadership has exemplified this standard of excellence for decades: Randolph Stone, who retired last year, and Mark Heyrman, who retires this summer. Randolph, a former director of the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic and a longtime codirector of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Project, and Mark, who led the Mental Health Advocacy Project for 41 years and championed clinical legal education nationwide, have inspired hundreds of students over the years. Each is a giant in his field, a sought-after expert with years of accolades, courtroom wins, and policy reforms to his credit. Each has played a valuable role in helping shape the Law School’s clinics into the vibrant program we have today. We owe these venerable and compassionate leaders much gratitude, and it is with great sadness that we say goodbye as they embark on their next chapters.

Their departures have coincided with other changes in our clinical and experiential programs. Earlier this year, we welcomed two spectacular new faculty members: Sharon Fairley, ’06, as a Professor from Practice, and Emily Underwood, ’13, as an Assistant Clinical Professor and the Bluhm-Helfand Director of the Innovation Clinic. Sharon brings remarkable experience in city, state, and federal government. She has served as an assistant attorney general in the criminal appeals section of the Office of Illinois Attorney General; as an assistant US attorney in the Northern District of Illinois; and as the first deputy inspector general and general counsel of the City of Chicago in the Office of the Inspector General. Most recently, she led Chicago’s Independent Police Review Authority and its replacement, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability. Emily joins us from the law firm of Katten Muchin Rosenman in Chicago, where she focused on sports law and general corporate matters. Previously, she was an associate in the Insurance and Financial Services Group at Sidley Austin, where she focused on mergers and acquisitions, structured financing, and regulatory matters in the insurance industry.

I hope each of you will join me in celebrating the many achievements of our departing clinical faculty and staff and in welcoming those who are new to our community. I am deeply proud of all that our clinics have—and will—accomplish.

Warmly,

Thomas J. Miles