

Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The Law School is a place of boundless curiosity, where our faculty seek to deepen our understanding of the law and the world. At times, a single scholar working independently advances brilliant insights, and at other times, a group of faculty devotes its collective energy to understanding an area of law. The latter is particularly well suited to our environment of questioning, debate, and discussion. The concentrated energy of multiple minds can produce a renaissance of thinking about a particular area of law. When this happens, it is a moment of great excitement, and the Law School becomes *the* place to learn and study the topic. The Law School is having such a moment now in international law and legal questions in international contexts. This issue of *The Record* highlights the astonishing range of work our faculty are undertaking in international contexts and the global impact they are having.



Our clinics are similarly trailblazers within their fields, and the Abrams Environmental Law Clinic is expanding its focus on equity through its long-term work with underserved communities. This focus on environmental justice has meant tackling a variety of complex issues, and it marks the Abrams Clinic as a leader within the field.

Multiple faculty colleagues have found new ways to share their ideas with the world. Professor Randy Picker created a vibrant intellectual community with alums spanning multiple generations to examine recent issues in antitrust. Also, several colleagues have launched successful podcasts. Professor William Baude, a leading scholar of constitutional law and interpretation, launched *Dissenting Opinions*, a series that explores constitutional issues in new ways. Clinical Professor Claudia Flores and Professor Tom Ginsburg, leading experts in human rights law, teamed up to create *Entitled* to examine the complexity of legal rights. Both podcasts offer insight into how our scholars think about important issues, respectfully navigate disagreement, and explore new ideas.

What accounts for the insatiable appetite for the ideas of our faculty across the globe, in so many fields, and through different venues? Professor Anup Malani, whose recent work contributed valuable knowledge to the global fight against COVID-19, once told students: the University of Chicago “is the one school that places no bounds on your curiosity. Our seriousness is ... why people seek our advice so often. It is what makes us indispensable.” Indeed, it is these values that set us apart.

These examples, which you can read about in the pages to come, are important reminders of the ways in which our faculty apply our core values to confront important problems through hands-on work, field-defining scholarship, and by sharing their knowledge with the public. As we move toward the end of a successful academic year, I am particularly grateful for these and the many other contributions of our faculty—and for the culture that encouraged and inspired such transformative work.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tom J. Miles". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Thomas J. Miles
Dean and Clifton R. Musser Professor of Law and Economics