

Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Freedom of expression on university campuses has garnered much attention in recent years, and it has special importance at the University of Chicago. The University has seen the freedom to express and challenge ideas as central to its mission of discovering and advancing knowledge.

The Law School has had a distinctive role in clarifying and advancing the University's commitment to this principle. Three University committees have examined matters of expression and issued important statements. All three were chaired by faculty members at the Law School: Harry Kalven, Jr. in 1967, David A. Strauss in 2013, and Geoffrey R. Stone in 2014. This pattern continued last year when the University formed the Committee on Discipline for Disruptive Conduct, and Randal C. Picker agreed to serve as its chair. The excellence of the Law School's faculty make it no surprise that our colleagues regularly provide generous service to the University. Yet even by this standard, the Law School's influence on the University's approach to expression is extraordinary.



In this issue of the *Record*, we explore free expression at the Law School in depth. As clear as the University's commitment to this principle has been, executing it is never simple. We grapple every day with how to make our school welcoming while still encouraging clear thought about the hardest legal questions. As the lead article describes, there is discussion about how free expression can coexist with other values such as our commitment to inclusion. Law schools can be places where the commitment to inquiry comes under particular stress. The law confronts some of society's most troubling situations and difficult questions, and students can find the close study of these topics and discussing them challenging. For aspiring lawyers, there is often the additional responsibility of learning to advocate for a client whose views one vehemently opposes.

The processes of scholarly inquiry and professional development are not always easy, and their burdens are often not uniformly distributed. In the complex times in which we are living, the University and Law School strive to create a space where all individuals feel free to express themselves, vigorously if they wish, but always in a respectful manner. It is, and always will be, a work in progress, and I look forward to your thoughts on the article and the topic.

Also in this issue, as in every issue, I hope, you will find articles on exciting work going on at the Law School. I am very proud to share stories about the work our faculty and students are doing in two very different clinical programs, one with the Hopi tribe and one focusing on the Supreme Court. Our wonderful librarians share with you the story of a long-missing letter from John Marshall to George Washington that was found in our Rare Book Room as part of the collection of Louis H. Silver, '28. You can also read an excerpt from the speech Martha C. Nussbaum delivered upon receiving the Kyoto Prize, as well as learn about the backgrounds of some of our exceptional students.

As always, it is a privilege to be here at the Law School every day. It has never been more important to train lawyers who are exposed to a wide variety of perspectives and experiences, and who are able to engage respectfully on even the most controversial topics. I hope to see many of you at Reunion, where I know you will hold me to my commitment to open debate!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Miles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas J. Miles