A Letter from Dean Feerick

Dear Student:

As the 1994/95 academic year begins, I would like to extend a welcome to all first year law students and welcome back upper class students. I am pleased to provide you with this report on the Law School.

The Entering Class

The entering class numbers 450. 342 day students and 108 in the evening division. This class was selected from an applicant pool of 5,119. It is also significant to note that while law school applicants in the Northeast declined by 8%, applicants to our Law school increased by 7%. The applicant pool included individuals from all 50 states and 25 foreign countries.

140 undergraduate colleges and universities are represented in the first year class. Fifty students, or 11% of the entering class, have earned advanced degrees. Among this group, eleven students hold doctoral degrees and fifteen hold MBAs.

The first year class has students from 27 states, and 29% of the day students and 21% of the evening students identified themselves as members of an ethnic minority group. In the day division, 40% of first year students are women, and women comprise 49% of the evening division. Forty-three percent of the entire entering class are women.

Faculty

For the 1994/95 academic year, the Law School will have three new full-time faculty members and two visiting professors.

Associate Professor Jeffrey M. Colon, who will teach courses in taxation, is a graduate of the Yale Law School, where he was an editor of the Yale Journal of International Law. He is a summa cum laude graduate of Yale College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He also holds a master's degree in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center. Professor Colon was formerly an associate at the firm of Groon & Nordberg in Washington, D.C., where he concentrated in international and domestic taxation.

Associate Professor Abner S. Greene will teach administrative law and criminal law. He is a former law clerk to Justice John Paul Stevens of the United States Supreme Court and a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Michigan School of Law, where he was first in his class and an editor of the Michigan Law Review.

Associate Professor Linda Sugin will teach corporations and incometax. She is an honors graduate of Harvard University and New York University School of Law, where she was an associate editor of the N.Y.U. Law Review. She is a former law clerk to the Hon. Wilfred Feinberg, former member and former Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and a former associate with the New York City firm of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson. Most recently, Professor Sugin was an acting assistant professor at New York University School of Law.

Professor Susan I. Michaelman of Harvard Law School will be the 1994/95 Bacon-Kikenny Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law. Professor Michaelman, who will teach property, is Robert Walsmey University Professor of Harvard and a full professor there since 1986. He is a noted author, advisor, and consultant on property law, particularly in the area of urban development.

Professor Michaelman is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review. He is a former law clerk to United States Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., and has served as Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General of the Tax Division of the United States Department of Justice.

Visiting Professor Hugh T. Scogin, Jr., who will teach corporations, is a graduate of Harvard Law School and the College of Charleston (South Carolina). He also holds a master's degree in East Asian Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago, where he is a Ph.D. candidate.

Professor Scogin is Senior Research Scholar in the East Asian Institute of Columbia University and is Of Counsel.

Continued on Page 6
the idea that the approval of others should matter to any significant degree. When it is true that no man is an island, it is equally true that the most important connection you will make in law school is the connection with yourself.

What do you want from these three years? And do you want it because someone good for you to have or because you've done your homework and have concluded for yourself that this should be your goal? Will it be the people who surround you in law school and all that they purport to be, or will you find awe in the boundless possibilities for knowledge that a law school like Fordham offers? There's a difference, however subtle, between these choices. And what will be your personal measure of success in law school? Very few people make law review, so if the definition of success were limited to who makes law review, the vast majority of lawyers, including some of the brightest, would be considered failures. Yet the reality is otherwise. Think now and create your own framework of success. You may be influenced by the opinions of others and new discoveries along the way, but that's very different from coming in as an empty, manipulable shell.

I think that five years later, many of my minority colleagues who operated on a connections theory are slowly coming to realize that the only thing you walk away from law school that's truly lasting is the intellect you develop and the independence of thought that the experience should, but too often does not, foster within you. I believe that connections, or fitting in, has its place, but I believe that its place is far in distance to the intellectual and even spiritual autonomy that one should be about developing in law school.

To the extent that misguided purpose is the reason many Asian, Black and Latino students do not take from law school what is lasting about the experience, this is curable by each person taking stock of his background, values, and sociopolitical conscience and asking herself whether her choices are truly her own. However, to the extent that we are simply ill-prepared to take advantage of what law school has to offer, our task is somewhat more complicated.

When I attended my fifth-year reunion and informed classmates that I was now a law professor, the irony was not lost on them that someone who had not come from a family of lawyers would one day be teaching their children. Children who would in many cases be the third or fourth generation of lawyers in their family. As is so often the case with minority students, I was the first in my family to have graduated from college and certainly the first to have attended law school. We cannot change who our mothers and fathers are — and believe me it does make a difference in law school that one comes from a family of lawyers — but we can prepare to compete more effectively with those who have socioeconomic advantages that tend to influence law school performance.

Like so many of my minority peers in law school, I made the mistake of not spending the summer before my first year of law school reading background materials for each subject I would have in my first year. This was foolish. Law school rewards those who catch on the quickest. And since I did not come from a family of lawyers, I needed to level the playing field early. Purchasing a commercial outline, such as the Nutshell series, and reading it during the summer would have helped to accomplish this. And re-reading portions of the outline as the professor covered particular topics during the year would have put me in even better stead. I suggest you take time out this summer to read a commercial outline in every subject you will take in your first year — civil procedure, torts, contracts, property, constitutional law, and criminal law.

While no law professor will tell you to use these materials as substitutes for attending class and analyzing the material in accordance with the professor's approach, no professor can deny the value of having read some background material as you approach a subject. Indeed, professors author the very commercial outlines I'm referring you to.

Yet another way of leveling the playing field coming in is to look up the writings of each of your professors, which will usually be in the areas in which they teach. This will allow you to get an idea of the instructor's critical perspective on the material, be it in civil procedure or torts.

Finally, and strangely enough, you can level the playing field by participating in class. There's no getting around the fact that minorities and women speak less in class — often considerably less — than do White male students. But if you let someone dominate the classroom discussion, they will also dominate the courtroom debate. For this reason alone, minorities simply must develop their forensic skills in the classroom, where there is no harm that can result, by participating regularly. But participating in class discussion also increases your understanding of the material. If you can express a complicated idea in an exchange with a professor in front of fifty or a hundred classmates, chances are you'll be able to express a complicated idea under the stress of a time-intensive exam. So talk about the law both in and outside of the classroom. Talk about the law often.

I hope I haven't bored you too badly. I hope that you come to Fordham, and moreover I hope that you attend your fifth-year Fordham reunion.

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WELCOME BACK!

The first BAR/BRI table of the semester will be on

Tues., Sept. 13

Stop by and pick up information regarding the MPRE, the bar review course and the bar exam.

First Year review information also available.

BAR/BRI
BAR REVIEW

Hope you have a great year!
Hello from the SBA...

The Student Bar Association welcomes everybody to the 1994-1995 year at Fordham Law School. The SBA helps organize and finance student activities. The SBA also works closely to ensure that the students' voices are heard among Fordham's administration. The SBA consists of an executive board of five upper-class officers and a first-year representative from each section.

Among the SBA’s initial activities is to allocate the student activity fee among groups that submit budgets. Many previously established groups submit budgets by mid-September. The SBA then reviews all the submissions and divides the student money as fairly as possible.

The SBA will also be responsible for dividing the new student activity area among all the groups. The student area will give many groups, for the first time, a work and storage area right in the basement of the law school. A conference room will also be available exclusively for student use.

SBA publishes updates to keep everyone informed. Look for the update every couple of weeks located throughout the school.

SBA also organizes a variety of social events. Fordham night out is every Tuesday night at a bar to be decided. Every six weeks, the SBA rents out the Baja, a dance club on the upper West Side, and organizes the barrister’s ball, the annual school formal, and the Fordham fall booze cruise.

Throughout the year, SBA’s activities change depending on what events shape the law school. Everybody is encouraged to get involved by joining student groups, coming to SBA meetings to voice your opinions, going to social events or just taking pride in the Fordham community.

The SBA offices are located in the basement, right before the student activity area. If there is anything we can help you with, stop by and we’ll try to do our best. For some of us, this is the last year we will ever be in school. The SBA hopes to make it the best year ever.

1994-95 SBA Officers

Michael Emanuel, President
Matthew Gold, Vice President (Day)
Doug Harai, Vice President (Evening)
Robin Dunlop, Secretary
Hector Baldonado, Treasurer

...And a Great Big Hello From Us

Welcome, and welcome back!

For those of you new to Fordham, you may have heard about the major construction program. Those of us who were here over the summer will attest to its magnitude (and volume). For a hint of what it looked like in progress, see the pictures in the centerfold.

Those of you who left here in May, and who may wish to find Jen Berge, Donna Welensky, Marjorie Martin or Tom Schoenherr will have to look elsewhere. The vast reallocation of space has left them in new improved locations throughout the building.

You may be quite impressed with the radical new entrance and lobby combination (can one really call mahogany radical?), but be sure to enjoy the new Plaza (yes, it’s open for lazing).

And us? We’re the staff of The Advocate, and we keep you informed of Fordham activity. It’s hard sometimes to know what’s going on when your nose is buried in a hornbook, and that’s where The Advocate comes in. We provide a forum for the great debates of the day, on subjects great and small. We air all viewpoints — left, right and center — and encourage all Fordham law students to read us and to write for us.

THE ADVOCATE
Fordham University School of Law

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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MANAGING EDITOR

The Advocate is the official newspaper of Fordham Law School, published by the students of this school. The purpose of The Advocate is to report the news concerning the Fordham Law School community and developments on the legal profession, and to provide the law school community with a medium for communication. The Advocate does not necessarily concur with opinions expressed herein, and is not responsible for the opinions of individual authors or for factual errors in contributions received. Contributions are tax deductible. Address all letters, manuscripts, and blank checks to: The Advocate, 140 W. 62nd St., Fordham University School of Law, New York, NY 10023. Telephone 212/636-6964. Submissions should be made on disk in Macintosh Microsoft Word 5.0 or WordPerfect 5.1, accompanied by a hard copy. We reserve the right to edit for length.

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NEXT DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE ADVOCATE is WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Remember, submit a disk in MS Word or WordPerfect format!
Fordham Law School has gone through a lot of changes over the summer. Many of you left white-walled corridors in May and returned this week to mahogany and hanging fixtures in the lobby, rooms in places they weren't before, bathrooms (!) in the library ... Needless to say, this didn't happen all by itself. Starting right after finals and finishing up now, construction crews have literally taken the place apart and put it back together. These pictures will give you a flavor of the extent of the work that went on here at Fordham this summer.

On the Garden Level, hanging wires, carts and ladders only hint at the major electrical and ventilation work going on. The International Law Journal office (right), like all the journal offices, remained open throughout the summer.

The Library may have lost its window on the lobby, but it gained a new office. The dumpster and the sheetrock stand as testimony to the "out with the old, in with the new" aspects of the project.
The project included major plumbing work, and not just in the library. Existing lavatories were reworked, such as this men's room on the Garden Level, which will soon boast a new entrance off the corridor. Previously, the lavatory was entered through the old Locker Room, which now houses the International Law Journal.

The changes came inside and outside. Here, construction workers lay the foundation for the Plaza walkways, which was opened for business in May (although many were too busy studying for finals to enjoy it). The renovated Plaza is blessed with luxuriant lawns, a sculpture garden and a running track.

The mailboxes are gone! The clutter that characterized the old mailboxes, outside the Career Planning Office, has been replaced by more attractive units outside the cafeteria.
sel to the New York firm of Bryan Cave. From 1987 to 1994, he was an assistant professor at the University of Southern California Law Center. He is the author of the forthcoming book, Law and Investment in Japan (Harvard University Press 1994).

Leonard F. Manning Professorship

I am very pleased to inform you that Associate Professor Dean Georgene Vairo has been appointed to the Leonard F. Manning Professorship. The late Professor Manning served the Law School with great distinction from 1948 to 1983. He served as moderator of the Law Review during twenty-eight of those years. He is remembered fondly by thousands of graduates of our school.

Dean Vairo is a former student of Professor Manning, a colleague of his for a short while, and a member of the Fordham Law Review during two of the twenty-eight years he served as moderator. As you are probably aware, she graduated first in the Class of 1979 and joined our faculty in 1982. Since that time, she has enjoyed great popularity as a teacher at our School and is a nationally known scholar in the field of civil procedure. I am pleased to note that she becomes the first woman to occupy a chair at our School.

Space Planning Project

The Law School’s Space Planning Project, under the direction of Dean Vairo and our Director of Administration, Judith O’Sullivan, has given us a facility which greatly enhances the quality of academic and student life. The Space Planning Project has created five new seminar rooms (in the area formerly occupied by the Law Review and Associate Dean’s office) and one new classroom (in the old Urban Law Journal office). These rooms allow us to respond to a growing trend in legal education: the movement away from large classes and toward smaller-sized classes and seminars.

The Project has enabled us to make the School more accessible to disabled students and visitors. There is now an inclined ramp at the entrance of the building and a lift located adjacent to the lobby steps which will provide easy access for those in wheelchairs. It also has made possible the upgrading of the building’s heating, air conditioning, and electrical systems, and allowed us to add restroom facilities in the library. These facilities will be located on the sixth floor reading room.

Other changes in the Law Library include a new interlibrary loan office, the hiring of an additional reference librarian in the fall semester, and the introduction of an automated circulation system. This new system will require that students present their student identification cards when borrowing books.

The Law Review and Urban Law Journal have joined the School’s other three scholarly journals on the “garden level.” These newly-arranged spaces offer greatly-improved working space and more opportunity for interaction among the various student editors.

All told, the School has nearly tripled its space. It now houses new offices for clinical staff and faculty and also includes offices for the Domestic Violence Clinic, which is administered in conjunction with the Public Interest Resource Center’s Battered Women’s Project.

The Public Interest Resource Center has also tripled in area, reflecting the School’s support for public service. It features brand new administrative offices and work areas for staff and student organizations.

The ground floor is also home of the new offices of Continuing Legal Education and Faculty Programs. The rapid growth in these two areas has been a great asset to the School and has garnered a great deal of attention from both the local and international communities.

The Alumni Affairs office has moved from the first floor to the ground floor. Its former space is now occupied by a greatly enlarged Financial Aid office, which has been designed to better serve student needs. To more effectively handle student concerns, Financial Aid has recently hired an assistant to Director McGough.

The Meagher Advocacy Center, which was located in the south wing of the law library’s sixth floor reading room, now occupies a space across from Classroom 303. The Center’s previous site is now occupied by faculty offices. Over the next several weeks, the cafeterias will undergo renovation, with the expected completion date scheduled for late September or early October. Changers in the cafeteria include changes in the menu, as determined by student “buying patterns” during the last school year. These changes will include a full “New York Style Deli” and will feature rotisserie chicken called “Strutters” (which is similar to Boston Chicken) offered as whole, half, or take-out. There will also be more salad offerings and a greater variety of beverages.

In addition, the renovated space will have a newly configured serving line.

To compensate for the loss of the student lounge, we are considering a plan to renovate the cafeteria in order to convert it into a multipurpose area that will combine aspects of a lounge, eatery, and game room. Once the plan is ready, student opinion will be sought.

The Law School’s lobby will soon include an information desk, located adjacent to the library entrance. The desk will match the wood tones and design of the lobby’s guard desk.

The Clinical Program continues to expand and offer new opportunities for students. This year, in conjunction with the Public Service Resource Center, the Program will inaugurate the

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Domestic Violence Clinic (DVC). This clinic will allow students to work with battered women and families that suffer from domestic violence. The DVC will be headed by an adjunct clinical professor who will be appointed in the near future.

Public Interest Resource Center

The growth of the Public Interest Resource Center (PIRC) continues to demonstrate student commitment to public service. The School has acknowledged this interest by tripling the size of the PIRC facilities and by adding new staff and programs. This year the Center inaugurates The Battered Women’s Advocacy Project which (working through the DVC) trains law students to advocate for the survivors of domestic abuse. Through this program, student advocates speak on behalf of petitioners in Family Court. Studies have shown that the presence of trained advocates greatly increases a victim’s chances of successfully obtaining a protective order, from the court.

The Battered Women’s Advocacy Project will hold a training session in September for interested students. In exchange, the Project will ask all trained students to commit to at least one case in the fall and spring semesters. The Project can be reached at 636-6022.

In 1993/1994 the Fordham Student Sponsored Fellowship, Inc. (FSSF) established an outstanding record of achievement that will allow continued growth in the Law School’s commitment to public service. This past year the FSSF raised over $100,000 through student pledges, phone-a-thons, private contributions, and a Goods and Services Auction. This money funded 35 students to work in the public interest sector during the summer of 1994. Questions regarding the FSSF may be directed to any of the Fellowship’s five co-directors: Meryl Napach ’95, Cory Flashner ’95, Matthew Cushing ’95, Andrew Goldfrank ’96, and Jeanine Mitchell ’96.

The Fordham Law Community Service Project (FLCSF) also had a remarkable record last year. The FLCSF, which gives Fordham Law students volunteer legal assistance and to provide a tool to facilitate student career development to any of the Fellowship’s five co-directors: Meryl Napach ’95, Cory Flashner ’95, Matthew Cushing ’95, Andrew Goldfrank ’96, and Jeanine Mitchell ’96.

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Another important part of the Public Interest Resource Center is the Pro Bono Students America (PBSA). This organization has established an exemplary record of public service and utilizes a database of almost 500 organizations to assist students in finding legally-related public interest work. The PBSA offers students the chance to volunteer legal assistance and to provide a tool to facilitate student career development.

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I Love You

In the same way
Neverendingly
Bestows a kiss of light
On the earth
At the break of each day
And the moon
Caresses it
With cool, silvery fingers
Which cradle it through
Each night
So is my love for you
Gentle yet strong
And enduring
From now
Until the end

Selections

by Catherine Manion

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