Greetings! From Your New President

by David Reed, ’89

With summer at an end, it’s the start of yet another exciting year for the George Mason University School of Law Alumni Association. Special thanks to last year’s president, Michael Barnsback (’91), and an outstanding board for setting the stage for this year’s activities. For those of you who are not yet aware, last year we adopted a new and dynamic set of bylaws that should help propel us into a first rate law school alumni association. I am proud to have served on that committee and look forward to implementing the many changes adopted this year. Of course, I’m also just plain proud to be an alumni of such a distinguished Tier 1 law school as George Mason University! So, let’s talk about some of the exciting by-laws changes and alumni events coming up this fall…

The most notable change to the by-laws can be found in the way we structure and elect our alumni board. To ensure stability on the board year-in, year-out, the new by-laws call for staggering the terms of our elected representatives. This means that 6 of the 18 board members come up for election each year for a 3-year term. This will ensure the constancy of institutional knowledge on the board as well as a smooth transition in leadership from year to year. The role of the chapter committees has also been expanded with great authority being given to the actual committee. The true strength of our chapter should come from its membership and the active involvement of the membership in the committee structure. So, here’s the plug… Please watch for information on our committees, find one that interests you, and join in the fun! You will be able to find detailed information about our committees on the chapter website after our first meeting for this year.

The last, and perhaps most important, change in our by-laws is the establishment of a voluntary dues structure for the organization. In order to put on increasingly informative and relevant programs, we need funding. And while everyone who completes at least one semester at George Mason is considered an alumnus, only those alumni paying dues will be members of the Law Alumni Chapter. All alumni will continue to receive the same level of information on chapter activities through newsletters, e-mails and the website. But, chapter members will receive special recognition, discounts on alumni events, CLE discounts and invitations to member’s only events. The proposed dues are very reasonable and designed to be more of a symbolic gesture of support for the law school than a solitary funding stream. Please join me in showing your school pride by paying your alumni dues in support of our great alma mater.

So, what exciting activities are planned for the 2003/2004 season? As I write this, the 5th Annual Dean Norvell Golf Tournament is right around the corner. Next on the calendar is another Class Reunion on November 15. This event allows alumni to reconnect with their law school and classmates in a relaxed but stimulating atmosphere. Of course, our signature event, the Judicial and Legislative Reception, will continue to close out the year in May. It continues to be the jewel of the area’s legal community activities.

As you can see, these are exciting times at the law school. I look forward to hearing from all our alumni this year and to raising the bar on alumni participation. After all, this is YOUR alumni association. So, join a committee. Come to an event. Pay your dues. Show your school pride. And, get the most out of your affiliation with George Mason University School of Law.
The verdict is in!

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Another Great Year for the Annual Judicial & Legislative Reception

The Sixth Annual Judicial and Legislative Reception enticed more than 280 people to attend and enjoy the remarks of Chief Judge Douglas Ginsburg, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. The reception’s trademark “Virginia Wine Tasting” continued this year through the participation of Breaux Vineyards, Oasis Vineyards, Rappahannock Cellars, and Wintergreen Winery.

Save these dates!

Wednesday, October 15, 2003
CLE Course: Current Issues in Virginia Code of Professional Conduct with Professor John Costello, 2.0 Ethics Credits (Approval Pending)

Thursday, October 16, 2003
Capitol Hill Alumni Reception on Capitol Hill

Saturday, November 15, 2003
Law Alumni Reunion

Wednesday, November 19, 2003
Second Richard Murphy Lecture featuring Judge David B. Sentelle, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

For more information on these and other events, visit www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/schedule.html.

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Contact information for your board can be found at
www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/association.html.

The Mason Law Quarterly

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