It is very appropriate that one of my first formal duties as Dean of George Mason University School of Law is to write my inaugural message to the graduate and student readers of The Mason Law Quarterly. Our once and current students are our single most important resource.

I came to George Mason in 1999 because, like other members of the faculty, I saw the potential for creating a better kind of law school, focused on academic values, interdisciplinary study and the ambition for public service. My experiences working here for the past six years have only confirmed my view that Mason is indeed an impressive place.

As I enter my second month as dean, I am eager to share my ideas for the law school and to hear the views of the graduate and student members of our community. In simplest terms, our mission is to upgrade the value of your law degree.

To do this, however, we need to shore up our foundation. The quality and visibility of our program is remarkable, and still more remarkable when one considers how much has been accomplished with relatively slight resources. Our rise into the company of America’s most eminent law schools simply cannot continue indefinitely unless we make appropriate investments to support this objective.

Just this week we received word from U.S. News about this year’s law school rankings, and we were gratified that George Mason remains the youngest law school in the top 50. Our position for the fifth year in a row as a top law school—number 41 this year—is a testament to the high caliber of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff. As you can see from this year’s rankings, we are now playing at a level where the schools are so closely bunched that even minute changes in one variable or another can affect a program’s final position in the rankings. Others, perhaps taking heart from what we have been able to accomplish here, are doing more, investing more, expanding their programs and services to students and in general are becoming more formidable competitors. This is the way the market works, to the benefit of consumers and the profession. We welcome competition. We will meet it, and we will beat it.

Over the next few months, we will be exploring the most effective ways to turn up the heat. We must have better career services and scholarship support for our students. We must expand the size and reach of our faculty. We must address and overcome pressing physical space issues. And we must update and upgrade our alumni and development efforts to support alliances with all the friends and potential friends of the George Mason law program. Already, we have hired an additional career counselor to help us meet the growing demands of an increasingly diverse student body and employer pool. We have a new director of development to help us build the kind of fundraising campaign that all top law schools have. We also have entered the design phase to reconfigure some of our existing space to make it more serviceable.

I’ve had the pleasure to meet many of you at one of our alumni gatherings and in the classroom. But I would like to get to know more of you. I encourage you to communicate with us about your own accomplishments as well as your ideas for the law school. We have an entire office devoted to serving alumni as well as an active board of the law alumni association. We have finally, after many years of work, launched our new online law alumni directory, and I encourage you to update your information or reacquaint yourself with old friends via this service or through our Alumni Services Office. Stay in touch with us. We can do great things together—but the operative word is, together.

The previous deans of this law school, John Brabner-Smith, Ralph Norvell, Henry Manne, and Mark Grady, were men of vision and courage in whose footsteps I am very proud to follow. I look forward to seeing you over the coming months and years in our hallways and out in the big world.

Daniel D. Polsby
Dean and Professor of Law
The Man Behind the Vest

In February, after a rigorous search process involving faculty, alumni, and student input, George Mason University Provost Peter Stearns formally announced that Dan Polsby was offered, and had accepted, the position of Dean of the School of Law.

Dean Polsby’s name, face, and casual black vest are familiar to many alumni who attended the law school since Dean Polsby first joined the faculty in 1999 as a professor of law and Associate Dean. If you didn’t take a class with him or haven’t heard of his hard work behind-the-scenes, you will be pleased to learn that, over the last six years, Dean Polsby has played a critical role in achieving many of the law school’s current accomplishments. He also has been heading the law school since last spring, when he was appointed Interim Dean. Thus, while the official title of Dean of the School of Law is new for Dean Polsby, he has already proven to be an experienced administrator, a staunch advocate for the law school, and an individual with a clear vision of the next steps necessary for the law school’s continued success. And, by all reports, he does it all with a good sense of humor thrown in the mix. In the words of Provost Stearns, Dean Polsby “offers wisdom and humor, both commodities in short supply.”

Behind the Scenes at GMUSL

Dean Polsby joined the law school faculty and administration at a difficult time in the school’s history. (See the related box with details on Dean Polsby’s long career in the law and academia prior to his appointment to George Mason.) In the spring of 1999, the law school learned that it had dropped to the third tier in the U.S. News & World Report rankings of U.S. law schools. Students, faculty, alumni, and the administration were disheartened by the school’s drop to the third tier despite its outstanding program. Not to be discouraged, former Dean Mark F. Grady turned to his old Northwestern University friend and colleague, Dan Polsby, to help assess the reasons behind the drop and to develop a strategy for improving the law school.

Some of the strategy’s initial areas of focus included: recruiting students with high academic credentials, improving career opportunities, publicizing the name and activities of the law school within the legal community, hiring and retaining a talented full-time and adjunct faculty, and increasing the financial resources available to the law school. Dean Polsby hit the ground running, working with staff and faculty to develop and implement a concrete plan for making improvements in each of these areas.

Those who have worked closely with Dean Polsby over the last few years speak highly of his efforts and leadership. “Dan Polsby knows how to develop a strategy, persuade the faculty and staff to adopt it, and then work with the appropriate people to make sure it is implemented successfully,” says Associate Dean Sid Moore. Anne Richard, Associate Dean and Director of Admissions, notes “Dean Polsby worked very closely with the Admissions Office in his role as Chair of the Admissions Committee. Under his leadership, we developed and implemented new and more aggressive recruiting programs. Thanks to Dean Polsby, we were able to raise our admissions standards and bring in stronger and stronger students. During the past six years, Dean Polsby has been the key strategist and critical member of the team that took our law school to the next level.”

Victoria Huber, Associate Dean and Director of Career Development & Alumni Services echoes her colleagues’ sentiments: “Like Dean Grady, Dean Polsby was and is extremely supportive of our career and alumni efforts. While he was Associate Dean, we met regularly with him to discuss strategies for improving employment opportunities for students. I could also count on his
Man Behind the Vest, from page 2

support for new alumni initiatives, including, most recently, the significant investment in an online law alumni directory.”

Dean Polsby also worked side by side with Dean Grady in cultivating new donor relationships, resulting in additional financial support for the law school. Stephen Parr, Associate Dean for Management and Finance, attested to Dean Polsby’s efforts in this regard: “Dean Polsby has been instrumental in reaching out to new and existing donors in an effort to increase the financial support available for the law school’s programs. He was a key player, for example, in securing one of the largest gifts for an endowed chair in the law school’s history.”

Popular professor of contracts and architect of the famed Supreme Court bobble-head dolls, Ross Davies, perhaps sums up the Dean Polsby phenomenon best: “Since arriving at Mason in 2002, I’ve had the opportunity to work with and observe Dean Polsby in a variety of different settings. I am continually impressed by his good judgment, ability to recognize opportunities to promote the law school, and willingness to act on such opportunities to enhance the school’s reputation and the faculty and student experience here at GMUSL. His good humor, thoughtfulness, and keen insight as to the issues critical to the law school’s success are just some of the attributes I expect he will bring to his new role as Dean. I look forward to the coming years under his stewardship.”

The Selection Process – Input from Across the Board

The process for selecting a new dean for the law school was a vigorous one. A Dean Selection Committee, chaired by Professor Tim Muris, was formed shortly after Dean Grady’s resignation last spring. The committee’s members included professors Tim Muris, Max Stearns, Michael O’Neill, and Nelson Lund; Chief Justice Douglas Ginsburg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit; Sara Cobb as the director of the Institute of Conflict Analysis and Resolution; Rodney Turner (’93) as a representative of the Alumni Committee; and Brendan Lynch (3D) as a representative of the Student Search Committee. The Dean Selection Committee reviewed applications for the position and narrowed the field to eight candidates for personal interviews. Eventually two candidates were recommended to Provost Stearns for final review.

Members of the Student and Alumni Committees met in person with a number of the candidates during the process. Each committee was able to bring its observations and thoughts to the full Dean Search Committee for discussion. The Student and Alumni Committees were both pleased with the quality of candidates brought to interview and the Provost’s final selection. “All of the candidates were quite impressive, but no one impressed me more than Dean Polsby,” says Rodney Turner. “As expected, his grasp of the most pressing challenges facing our law school was unequaled. More significantly, however, his plans for leading the law school community as we confront these challenges were both well considered and inspiring. I look forward to working with Dean Polsby as he leads us on the charge toward fulfilling the promise that is George Mason University School of Law.”

A Final Word

A change at the helm often causes some to adopt a “wait and see” attitude, but the elevation of Dean Polsby appears to have generated excitement among many in the law school community for even better things to come. Dean Polsby’s experiences and achievements at the law school while Associate Dean and Interim Dean appear to have prepared him well for his newest assignment.

About Dean Polsby

Dean Polsby received his BA from Oakland University in 1964 and earned his JD magna cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1971. After law school, he clerked for The Honorable Harold Leventhal of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. He then worked as an associate at Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering in Washington, D.C., and later served as Legal Counsel for Commissioner Glen O. Robinson on the Federal Communications Commission.

For 23 years, Dean Polsby was a member of the faculty at Northwestern University, most recently as the Kirkland & Ellis Professor of Law. During his time at Northwestern, he published dozens of articles on a variety of subjects including voting rights, family law, gun control, employment rights, and spectrum utilization.
Online Alumni Directory makes its Debut

The law school recently launched its new *George Mason University School of Law Online Alumni Directory*, the most comprehensive and detailed alumni directory yet produced by the law school. The new directory contains information on nearly 5,000 alumni and is completely free for law alumni use.

Features of the directory include:

- Both simple and advanced searches, as well as Capitol Hill Alumni Group searches.
- “My Contacts” bookmark capabilities.
- User-based information updating with immediate display of changes.
- Privacy protection through restricted access and the option to selectively hide detail.

The directory is available for use by all Mason Law graduates and requires a one-time registration at [www.law.gmu.edu/currnews/alumnidirectory.html](http://www.law.gmu.edu/currnews/alumnidirectory.html). Please note that you will need your Alumni ID Number (which appears on the mailing label of most materials received from the law school or the main university).

Mark Your Calendar!

Eighth Annual Judicial and Legislative Reception

featuring wines and foods of Virginia

May 25, 2005
6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

School of Law Atrium
Arlington, Virginia

[http://www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/schedule.html](http://www.law.gmu.edu/alumni/schedule.html)

Visit the New Online Alumni Directory:

[www.law.gmu.edu/currnews/alumnidirectory.html](http://www.law.gmu.edu/currnews/alumnidirectory.html)

Past Presidents of the Law Alumni Association and the GMU Alumni Association, respectively, Craig Young ('82) and Brian Drummond ('88) join current Law Alumni Association President David Reed ('89), right, in welcoming Dean Polsby.
The verdict is in!

Apple FCU has the credit union advantage!
All GMU Law students, alumni and their families are eligible to join Apple Federal Credit Union. As a member, you can take advantage of our money saving products and services.

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- Visa Credit Card Options
- Money Market Accounts
- Investment Services
- And much more!

Visit our website at www.applefcu.org for more information and membership application.
Another GMUSL graduate joins the bench. On Thursday, March 17, 2005, Lisa Bondareff Kemler ('84) was formally invested as a circuit court judge in the City of Alexandria.

Heather A. Cooper ('94), David L. Ginsberg ('96), and Daniel Gray ('96) are pleased to announce the formation of COOPER GINSBERG GRAY PLLC. The firm specializes in family law and is located in Fairfax, VA.

Garreth A. Sarosi ('99) has joined Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C. as an associate and member of its growing IP Litigation Practice in its Dallas office.

David Linton ('03) is law clerk for Justice Tom Parker of the Alabama Supreme Court.

John C. Whitbeck Jr. ('01) is a partner in Dunlap, Grubb, Weaver & Whitbeck, P.C., a twelve-attorney firm with offices in Leesburg, Reston, and Winchester, VA. John also joins the ranks of alums using their spare time to return and serve as adjunct faculty members at Mason Law.

Craig Long ('02) became a new father on December 29, 2004, with the birth of Craig Alan Long II.

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP is pleased to announce that Brian L. Trimyer ('99) and Joseph B. Mullaney ('03) have joined the Washington, DC, office.

Ann Rackas Pate ('99) has been appointed by Virginia Governor Mark Warner to the Board for Contractors to serve a four-year term. The Board regulates construction contractors and trades. Ann’s solo practice, Rackas Pate Law, PLLC, recently launched its new website, www.rackaspatelaw.com.

William F. O’Neal ('81) reports that he is teaching math to “at risk” children and coaching tennis in Texas.

Nick Kalis ('96) is working on the redevelopment of the Warrenton Town Center in Warrenton, VA.

David Stein ('90) is currently pursuing his LLM in Intellectual Property at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

In May 2003, William Moschella ('95) was confirmed as Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs at the Department of Justice.

Bruce McLaughlin ('80) recently started a consulting business, the Lincoln Management Institute, with a fellow franchise enthusiast.

Need to brush up on the basics of Constitutional Law? Perhaps you should go see Thomas McKenna ('92), who is teaching a Constitutional Law course at John Tyler Community College. John also is teaching Trial Advocacy with the Virginia Commonwealth Attorney’s Office.

Heidi McCree ('92) has left her position with the Hillsborough River Greenways Task Force in Tampa to stay at home full time with her children.

In 2003 Elizabeth Stevens ('01) joined the Office of Immigration Litigation as an attorney at the appellate level. The office is a part of the Civil Division of the Department of Justice.

Patti Thornhill ('87) sent word from Florida that she is happily single and has three awesome kids!

Among his many activities, John Whittington ('81) also is serving as a Virginia State Bar Professionalism Faculty Member.

Another retired alum taking time out to report on the “good life” is Brian O’Donnell ('77). Brian checks in to let fellow alums know that he’s enjoying boating, skiing, and traveling during retirement. Words of wisdom from Brian are, “We have one shot at life on this planet – enjoy, laugh, and love!”

Jack Kitaeff ('01) reports a new addition to his family, Mordechai Dou Kitaeff, was born on February 5, 2003.

James Knaack ('03) and his wife recently welcomed their second child, James.

Looking for another degree? Perhaps you’ll want to join Wendy Inglefield ('93) at the Eastern Virginia Medical School. Wendy is currently a medical student planning to graduate in 2006.

Daniel Guglielmo ('01) and his wife added a third child to their family, Isabel Carr, on June 4, 2003. Big brothers David and Charles hope you’ll join them in welcoming their new little sister.

Eliza Fendell ('02) and her husband welcomed their first child, Magnus Davidson Oberg, on November 8, 2002.

Multi-tasking is all in a day’s work for Brian Block ('98), who reports that he is a sole practitioner and a realtor with Re/Max Allegiance in Alexandria, VA.

Michael Wade ('01) and his wife welcomed their first child, Wyatt Joseph Wade, on July 8, 2003.

John Berry ('88) and wife Betsy share news that their son Luke will soon be turning three years old.

Linda Stoner Waddell (formerly Linda Stoner) ('93) married and moved to Memphis, TN, in 1998. She is currently a solo practitioner of family law.


Along with practicing in Williamsburg, VA, Susan Tarley ('88) has also been serving as a substitute judge for the General District Courts of the Ninth Judicial District since 1998.

Todd Spignardo ('01) and Barbara Anne Spignardo (formerly Barbara Anne Poinktowski) ('02) celebrated their first wedding anniversary in 2003.

Keep an eye on the kicker this coming NFL season because chances are he is using the Ground Zero football tee patented by H. Jay Speigel ('81). Jay is the inventor and holder of twenty U.S. patents, including the Ground Zero tee and the Penta VR5 Panel football licensed to Rawlings.

Early 2003 was a busy time for Adam Spence ('95), who reports that his wife delivered their third child, Andrew Matthias, in March, and that Adam opened his own law practice in Towson, MD, in May.

Raymond Short ('83) shared news that his wife Juanita Jo Matkins is on the faculty at George Mason’s main campus in the School of Education.

Darcy Shoop (formerly Darcy A. Gould) ('92) and husband Ken have one daughter, Samantha.

Jeffrey Schanz ('91) currently is at the Department of Justice and volunteers
his time with Legal Services of Northern Virginia as a pro bono attorney.

Along with his own practice, Marc Rogoff ('81) is pleased to announce that he is also serving as the attorney for the Woodbridge Township Planning Board in New Jersey.

After a number of years practicing law on behalf of the federal government, James Reynolds ('82) has moved into private practice and is focusing his energies in the area of immigration defense.

Along with practicing patent law at Foley and Lardner, Leon Radomsky ('99) is currently serving as the vice-chair of AIPLA’s Chemical Practice Committee. Leon is also the former chair of AIPLA’s Young Lawyer’s Committee.

Kirby Porter ('88) and his wife have their hands full with four children under the age of seven. Next time you see Kirby, be sure to ask to see pictures of his beautiful children Christine, Jack, Caroline, and Kathryn.

News from the litigation front: Demetrios Pikrallidas ('91) notes that he recently settled a $1.8 million personal injury lawsuit on his client’s behalf.

West Palm Beach sound nice? Jennifer Crawley Lewis (formerly Jennifer Crawley) ('95) reports that life in South Florida is indeed “awesome” with husband Max and two-year-old daughter Diana Mary.

Richard Lankford ('89) continues to keep busy with his civil litigation practice and raising his four children with wife Christine.

Retirement is indeed all it’s cracked up to be. William Kingsbury ('94) is enjoying many different things during his retirement, including participating in his church, hiking, camping, traveling, and volunteering for Habitat for Humanity in Portland, OR.

How time flies! Kristin King ('97) and Michael Brown ('98) are pleased to announce that their daughter Katie Jane Brown is already over two years old.

Karen Keyes ('91) and Paul Ferguson ('92) are keeping busy with two boys, Timothy (born June 1998) and Daniel (born August 2001).

Joseph Kasell ('88) wants to let fellow classmates know that he and his wife are the proud parents of one daughter, Kathleen Kasell.

Jennifer Holt ('93) is celebrating the one-year anniversary of her solo practice in Alexandria, VA. The practice handles a wide variety of legal matters including real estate issues, wills, domestic relations matters, and law for small businesses.

Wedding bells rang for Christopher Holmes ('00), who wed Tara King in June 2004.

Juliet Hiznay ('97) is proud to announce the birth of her son Maxwell Corin Hiznay, born August 1, 2003.

Direct from the Sunshine State, Tim Henkel ('88) checked in with a report that he is married, the proud father of two sons, and loving life in South Florida!

Michael Cavallaro ('97) will soon complete an MA in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

Christopher Brown ('94) and his wife continue to reside in Missouri and are keeping busy with their two children, Jessica (born in 1996) and Ryan (born in 1999).

Over the summer of 2003, Vincent Bonzagni ('98) left his work at the Social Security Administration and opened the doors of The Bonzagni Law Firm, PC, in Front Royal, VA.

Cathy Betz (formerly Cathy Clark) ('83) is very busy these days working in the area of federal health care policy and raising children Gillian (age 5) and Oran (age 1) with husband Robert.

Shannon ('87) and Steven Briglia ('88) would like their fellow classmates to know that they have two wonderful sons.

Interested in learning more about a career as a judge or the USPTO’s Board of Patent Appeals? The Honorable Lance Leonard Berry ('95) is currently serving as an Administrative Patent Judge and is happy to speak with fellow GMUSL alumni on these topics.

DeLisa Alexander ('95) and her husband are proud to inform everyone that they now have two children, Elliana and Jayson.

Luben Montoya ('00) has been named Acting Director of the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives.

Lorraine Cicowski ('91) has been appointed by the Associated Press to the new position of Vice President, Product Development. She will help AP develop strategies for search, wireless, and other...
Evelyn H. McConathy ('92) has joined the intellectual property practice of Drinker Biddle & Reath, where she handles patent applications and prosecutions, as well as IP litigation cases.

You may have recognized Caryn Groedel ('85) among the castaways on the reality show “Survivor: Palau” beginning in February 2005. Caryn is a civil rights attorney in Solon, Ohio, where she lives with her husband and three daughters.

Erica McMahon ('99) has been named the acting chief of staff for the FCC’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau.

Former Chief Circuit Judge Cynthia Angelos ('82) has become a partner in the law firm of Weiss, Handler, Angelos and Cornwell based in Boca Raton, Florida. She will lead the firm’s new office in Port St. Lucie and specialize in real estate and development law, as well as litigation.

Wendy Creeden ('99) and her husband are proud to announce the birth of Alexia Elizabeth on November 22, 2004.

Jon Wright ('02) and wife Wendy celebrated the birth of daughter Gabriella on December 26, 2004. Gabriella joins big sister Miranda, who is nearly three.

Arthur E. Schmalz ('93), a partner on the Litigation, Intellectual Property, and Antitrust team in the McLean office of Hunton & Williams, was recognized by his peers as a member of Virginia Business magazine’s 2004 Legal Elite in the category of “Young Lawyer.”

Michael Edward Bryant ('82)

John N. McMillan ('80)

In Memoriam

George Mason University School of Law
Career Development and Alumni Services
3301 Fairfax Drive
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