



A MESSAGE FROM DEAN KATZ

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER STUR姆 COLLEGE OF LAW

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Dean Katz

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2010 – 2011 Year-in-Review

As we embark on our new school year, we take stock of the excellent year we just finished. Just a few of these highlights are included below (click the **red** links for more information).

- **Bar Passage.** The July 2011 bar pass results are in, and we could not be more proud of our graduates, who **passed at a rate of 90%** before appeals, 5% over the state average pass rate. The timing of this could not be better, as we are entering the final phase of our new bar passage initiative – those who took the exam this year were the first entering class under that initiative to sit for the bar. Other aspects of that initiative have already shown promising results, as last year's Denver Law graduates passed at a rate of 87% – 2% above the state average. Read Dean Katz's complete message on the **2011 bar pass results**.
- **Record Fundraising.** We raised **more than \$10 million this year** – more than twice our annual goal, and \$3.5 million more than we have ever raised in a year without a naming gift. This record-breaking result, during tough economic times, is an indicator of strong support for the two initiatives in our **strategic plan** (our Modern Learning Initiative, designed to produce more practice-ready lawyers, and our Specialization Initiative, designed to achieve excellence in five cutting edge areas of expertise). Our plan, strengthened by your support for it, is transforming legal education.
- **Conferences and Lectures.** It was a great year for events and conferences at the law school: **an interview with U.S. Supreme Court Justices Breyer and O'Connor**; Faculty Scholar-in-Residence Professor John Donahue from Stanford Law School; the Second Annual Southwestern Criminal Law Conference; the 15th Annual LatCrit conference; and the **Applied Legal Storytelling Conference** (with the Legal Writing Institute).
- **Scholarship.** Our faculty again was highly productive, with 58 published or forthcoming law review articles, 16 books, and 14 book chapters or supplements. Of the articles, 24 appeared or will soon appear in the **top ranked law reviews** used in Michael Yelnosky's national productivity survey. Many faculty members presented their work in prestigious academic venues and commented on their work in national news media.
- **New Faculty.** We continue our 5-year plan to **add 10 new tenure-track faculty members** with two excellent new hires last year, including Professor Nancy Leong, from William & Mary. (This marks the second year in a row in which we have hired faculty from Top 30 schools.)
- **Class Size.** We finalized implementation of our **20% reduction in class size**. For 2009-10 (before full implementation of this reduction), we reported a student-faculty ratio of 12.72. For 2010-11, with the final implementation of the class-size reduction, and continued increase in faculty size, the ratio – which is critical to our ability to provide the finest education to our students – will get even better.
- **New Curriculum.** We opened our **new transactional law clinic** (the **Community Economic Development Clinic**), and have instituted our new **Semester-in-Practice program**, in which students immerse themselves full time for an entire term with leading mentor-practitioners. We have implemented five new certificate programs, allowing our students to explore our Specialization Initiative areas in depth, and demonstrate their expertise and experience to potential employers. We also developed a template for **Carnegie Integrated Courses**, experiential learning opportunities that combine instruction in doctrine, skills and professional identity. We already have more than 30 of these courses in our curriculum and are adding more each semester – progress toward our strategic plan goal of an optional, all-experiential third year.
- **Students.** In a year in which applications were down nation-wide, the quality of our student body has improved. Our median LSAT scores remained constant at 159, while our GPA increased to 3.5. We will audit this data to guarantee its reliability.
- **Diversity.** Our \$1.5 million in Yegge Scholarships has strengthened our diversity. Our pipeline projects – including our partnership with the Denver Urban Debate League and our low-cost LSAT prep program – are laying a strong foundation for improving diversity in our profession. Our pipeline efforts were featured in an **article** in the Iowa Law Review.
- **Employment.** In the toughest year in recent memory for legal hiring, **nearly 91%** of our 2010 graduates who were seeking employment found jobs. And most were good jobs; less than 4% of these jobs were in the non-professional sector. To ensure both transparency and reliability, we have publicized **detailed jobs data**, which we will report to the American Bar Association after a voluntary audit.
- **Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers.** This important new initiative is designed to support innovative law teaching based on the 2007 Carnegie Report in order to produce better, more practice-ready lawyers. Bill Sullivan, the lead author of the Carnegie Report, directs this joint venture between Denver Law and the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver, placing us squarely at the forefront of this game-changing movement in legal education.

We look forward to another exciting year.

Regards,

Martin J. Katz
Dean and Professor of Law