

Letter from the Alumni Director



Depending on how one determines the millennium, this letter will either find you reflecting upon the events of 2000 or anticipating the beginning of the new age in 2001. Anyway you look at it, we are living through a time of intense change at all levels of society. Certainly, national politics have gone through some unusual twists in the fall of 2000. Everyone's personal and professional lives have been profoundly changed by the information technology revolution. It follows that your law school is evolving as well.

At October's Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association's Board of Governors, Dean LeDuc and President Thomas Brennan gave their vision for the future of Cooley Law School, with specific developments planned for the next four years. The law school has passed through the birth and youth stages of organizational growth and is now entering maturity. Many of the programs that were implemented over recent years, such as Externships and Academic Concentrations, are now part of the experience that new Cooley students expect.

The school is accepting new challenges that make it a player on the national stage, such as the Innocence Project. This program, headed by Professor Norm Fell, uses the scientific advancements in DNA testing to review criminal convictions. Cooley has increased visibility in the Lansing area too. We are planning the second 5K Race for Education that will provide scholarship support to area students.

Scholarship offerings within the law school have grown. Two new scholarships were granted in Michaelmas Term 2000. Keith Miller of the 1989 Copeland Class endowed a scholarship to assist Cooley students who work full-time while they attend law school. Sherri T. Fleming of the 2001 Iredell Class received \$1,000 toward her tuition from the Miller Scholarship Fund.

Dr. Arnold and Mrs. Lynn Markowitz created the Meryl Markowitz Scholarship Fund in memory of their daughter, a 1998 McDonald Class graduate who passed away before she could begin the practice of law. Meryl's interests and her spirited outlook on life were demonstrated by Harriet Miller-Brown, who received a \$1,000 grant. She will graduate in 2002 with the Chase Class.

Now that many of Cooley's graduates have been in practice for a decade or more, they are at the point where they can also contemplate furnishing substantial support to the school. Call me at (800) 243-ALUM or e-mail <parsell@cooley.edu> for more information. You may choose to create a scholarship to support an activity or a particular kind of student, as Keith Miller did. You may prefer to honor the memory of a friend or relative, as Dr. and Mrs. Markowitz did.

The Holiday Wreath program has been another new initiative to raise funds for student support. Thank you for purchasing 146 wreaths in 2000, raising more than \$1,300. This year's sales constitute a 200% improvement over our first year's results. We are looking at expanding this program in 2001 to add new products.

Finally, you are invited to support the Alumni Memorial Scholarship Fund by playing and sponsoring a hole at the 2001 Alumni Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing. To keep the event fresh, we will be changing the location next summer to the Wheatfield Valley Golf Course in Williamston. The outing will be held on Saturday, July 21. An application form will be included in the next Benchmark, but if you would like a registration form now, just give me a call.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Darryl J. Parsell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

DARRYL PARSELL
ALUMNI DIRECTOR

BENCHMARK

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Call for Submissions

The *Benchmark* is seeking submissions and story ideas from graduates. We are looking for stories on a variety of subjects including, but not limited to, graduate achievements, international law, cultural diversity, legal information helpful to practitioners, unique law practices, advice to prospective law students, or special events. If you would like to author an article, reprint an article you have authored for another publication, or share a story idea, please write, call, or e-mail:

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