

Letter from the Alumni President



Greetings:

Remember that old 1960s song that starts out, “It’s a new day dawning?” That line sometimes runs through my head when I drive by our new Cooley Center in downtown Lansing or when I am at the classroom building meeting with students.

I was recently in the classroom elevator during the time the orientation for the September class was being held. There were two older female students in the elevator. I eavesdropped and soon got as excited as they were. Their enthusiasm was catching. I saw the law school through fresh eyes. They had not gone through the growing pains during the 1980s and 1990s that we went through with the law school. They get to reap the benefits of the pieces each of us left of ourselves with our law school when we graduated. Here are some of the advantages we alumni have bestowed on the first termers this fall.

The Alumni Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing held in July at Wheatfield Valley Golf Course near Williamston generated \$7,762.48 for the need-based Scholarship Fund that the Alumni Association awards each spring. It will cover a student’s tuition expense for a three-credit class.

Each term, the Alumni Association presents the Distinguished Student Award to a graduating student who has displayed high standards throughout their law school career. Recognition of personal achievement is a vital ingredient to a positive law school experience.

We recently celebrated the 2002 Alumni Silver Reunion at Cooley. The Board of Directors of the school honored President Emeritus Thomas E. Brennan by naming the library after him. The Library Dedication Ceremony held July 12th was a special event. Many alumni came back to Cooley for the festivities and viewed the incredible improvements that were made to the school since many of us attended class.

Our state and regional alumni associations are increasing in number. We have charter chapters in Arizona, North and South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, southeastern Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin! For contact information, call Darryl Parsell, Director of Alumni Relations at (800) 243-ALUM, or e-mail <parselld@cooley.edu>.

We have a brand new Associate Dean of Development and Graduate Programs who is a really nice guy, full of new ideas and energy. His name is James D. Robb. One of his responsibilities is making our Oakland County campus a reality. We are gearing up for the Alumni Association’s annual meeting. Those of you, who are members of the Board of Governors, please plan on attending. Our meeting is at the Cooley Center this year. A resolution will be presented at the meeting for consideration which was drafted by your Association’s Executive Committee. The resolution asks for the support of the Professionalism Committee report entitled, “Professionalism Taught, Learned, and Lived in Law School”, and the committee’s Professionalism Plan for the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Some of the initiatives in the plan include reshaping the class on Professional Responsibility and infusing professionalism themes into the general curriculum. It also states our goal to be the first law school in the nation to formally adopt the AALS recommendations on commitment to public service. Once again, the first in the nation to do something – that’s us!

Thomas M. Cooley is now the second-largest law school in the United States, second only to Georgetown University. We are a mighty factor in the future shaping of the practice of law. Our influence is in every state, every government office, and every public service. Let’s take care of our own, our students, our graduates, our alumni. Help in whatever way you can by supporting Cooley’s fund-raising programs, mentoring programs, and externship programs. Help spread the Cooley gospel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "M. Carol Bambery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

M. Carol Bambery
Alumni Association President

PS – Don’t forget to support your Alumni Association by purchasing your holiday wreaths from Cooley. Proceeds go to support student activities! And call me if you want to talk.