



Dean Joseph D. Kearney on the fourth floor of Eckstein Hall, in a study room featuring one of the oak tables originally found in the Grimmelsman Memorial Reading Room of the 1924 Law Building (later renamed Sensenbrenner Hall).

In Celebration of Progress and Continuity

On the surface, Marquette Law School today scarcely resembles most of its past. Eckstein Hall, opened in 2010 yet still setting the standard among law school buildings for beauty and functionality, provides a splendid architectural contrast to our home from 1924 to 2010, to say nothing of the converted Mackie Mansion that served us earlier. For an example of a different sort, as displayed in a good deal of this magazine's current content, none of our four annual distinguished lectures even existed 30 years ago. And consider the changes in the makeup of our student body—race, gender, geography, for leading examples. The list of developments is long and profound.

A look below the surface, though, reveals considerable continuity in conjunction with the progress. A few examples: Both Torts and Contracts remain first-semester courses, as apparently since the formation of the Milwaukee Law Class in 1892 and the incorporation of the school into Marquette University in 1908. The *Marquette Law Review*, one of the nation's oldest law journals, publishes regularly, as it has since 1916. Interested students still learn the basics of becoming trial lawyers, perhaps aspiring to the same professional success as Wylie Aitken, L'65, whom we profile in this issue's cover story.

This admixture of the old and the new may explain why I am drawn to the continued use, in Eckstein Hall, of the old table pictured on this page. My final request of the movers in July 2010 was that this table

and the eight other such heavy oak tables, then in the 1967 Legal Research Center's Wisconsin Room, be carried over to Eckstein Hall. I had only recently learned from Professor Emeritus James D. Ghiardi, L'42—whose association with the Law School, as a student and a faculty member, spanned more than 75 years, with only World War II intervening—that the oak tables were original to the Grimmelsman Memorial Reading Room when the then-called Law Building (later renamed Sensenbrenner Hall) opened in 1924. The century-old tables are now found throughout the new building: The photo here shows one of them in a study room on the top floor of Eckstein Hall—the old, even if also timeless, amid the new.

So might it be said more generally of Marquette Law School. In particular, one who looks for the *mission* of the Law School will find it realized in respects variously new and traditional. Generations of law faculty and students have advanced the Marquette University mission—"the search for truth, the discovery and sharing of knowledge, the fostering of personal and professional excellence, the promotion of a life of faith, and the development of leadership expressed in service to others"—in ways both recognizable and novel. May it ever be so.

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