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ANNE CASSIDY  
Editor

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ANNE FEROLA, MIDGE GARDNER, MARGARET  
GARIGAN, KIM KETTIG, PATRICK J. MCCARDLE,  
CHRIS VOGEL, HAZEL WARDE  
Contributors

MARY MATHERON  
Executive Director of Development

PAT ROTH (L'87, LL.M.'94)  
Director of Alumni Affairs

KEVIN T. CONRY (L'86)  
Vice President for Strategic Development and  
External Affairs

T. ALEXANDER ALEINIKOFF  
Dean of the Law Center  
Executive Vice President, Law Center Affairs

We welcome your responses to this  
publication. Write to:  
Editor, *Georgetown Law*  
Georgetown University Law Center  
600 New Jersey Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
editor@law.georgetown.edu

Address changes/additions/deletions: 202-687-  
1994 or e-mail addup@georgetown.edu

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## Letter from the Dean

Global warming may well be the most pressing concern facing our world this century, and on April 2, the Supreme Court began to grapple with the issue in one of the most important environmental cases in years, *Massachusetts v. EPA*. It's a case in which Law Center faculty, alumni and students played a major role and we are proud of their accomplishments. Coming to terms with the enormous human, social and economic implications of climate change engages a wide range of academic disciplines, and law is no exception. The Georgetown Environmental Law and Policy Institute (GELPI)

organized three important conferences last November and one immediately following the Supreme Court ruling in April, all addressing the legal aspects of global warming. In this issue, we spotlight environmental law at Georgetown.

We dedicate the issue to the memory of Father Robert Drinan, who died in January. As members of our community have shared memories of Father Drinan (many have been posted on our Web page at [www.law.georgetown.edu/news/drinan.html](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/news/drinan.html) and some are printed in the tribute booklet included with this issue), we have become even more aware of his boundless energy and remarkable capacity for acts of kindness and concern. It seems as if Father Drinan knew everyone, officiated at everyone's baptism and wedding, spoke from every podium in every capital in the world, made time for every visitor to the Law Center. His focus was both grandly global and intensely local — on a typical day he would press world leaders on issues of human rights while remembering the birthday of a colleague's child.

In 2004, Father Drinan was awarded the ABA Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the association. The citation stated: "In an amazing career that has spanned more than half a century, Father Drinan has never faltered in his extraordinary humanitarian efforts and support for justice under the law. He has demonstrated to lawyers what it means to be committed to public service and to countless law students what is embodied in the highest dedication to ethical, moral legal practice." Bob spoke after the citation was read — not about himself, but about human rights and justice. And he ended by quoting Hammurabi, the world's first law-giver to achieve fame, who said that he was called to write his code "to bring about the rule of righteousness" and ensure "that the strong should not harm the weak."

This simple but profound principle lay at the core of Bob's work as a legislator, as an educator, as a scholar and as an advocate.

His laugh, his deep Boston accent, his firm handshake are gone from our halls. But Bob Drinan's commitment to principle and people lives on in the thousands of students he taught and inspired.

Sincerely,

T. Alexander Aleinikoff  
Dean of the Law Center  
Executive Vice President, Law Center Affairs