Dear Alumni,

As wintry weather finally gives way to spring sunshine, our thoughts here on the Law campus have turned to final exams and commencement exercises. Reflecting back on the academic year, I thought I would take this opportunity to update you on our Law Center community.

I’m privileged to lead a wonderfully accomplished group of full-time and adjunct faculty. Even as we marked the sad passing of Professor Barry Carter and Professor Emeritus Roy Schotland this semester, we are poised to welcome distinguished new faculty members to our school. Leading environmental law scholar Bill Buzbee, formerly an Emory law professor and director of the Emory Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program, joins us in the fall. I had the pleasure of introducing him to students and alumni recently at the official launch of our new LL.M. degree in environmental law, and he will be a notable addition to an already strong program. We are also happy to welcome Associate Professor Anne Fleming, a scholar in the history of consumer credit regulation with a Ph.D. in history. She joins us from Harvard, where she has been a Climenko fellow. And we are also glad to welcome Associate Legal Research and Writing Professor Ryan Christian (L’05), a magna cum laude graduate of our school.

As the marketplace for new law applicants continues to cause concern at many schools (nationwide applications were down 10 percent again this year), I’m pleased to report that Georgetown is faring very well. Under the continuing leadership of Andy Cornblatt, our long-serving dean of admissions, we saw a 7-percent increase in our applications this year and look forward to welcoming another outstanding class of 1L and LL.M. students in August. Approximately 750 alumni participated in our Law Alumni Admissions Interview program this year and other alumni hosted admitted students at receptions in their homes. These volunteer services are making a big difference for our school.

New students from every state and from more than 60 countries will join us here in the fall — following in the footsteps of a terrific graduating class. This year students provided almost 500,000 hours of pro bono service to the greater Washington area. Students helped in a variety of settings — from assisting nonprofit groups as they apply for new low-power FM radio stations to helping free an innocent man from prison. Our moot court teams advanced to the highest ranks of national and international competitions — winning the ABA Appellate Advocacy competition, the largest moot court tournament in the country, and even snagging first place in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court competition. Thanks to the hard work of the Barrister’s Council, Georgetown Law’s moot court program is now ranked second in the nation.

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In a school where theory and practice are full partners, our faculty members continue to engage real world issues with their scholarship. Professor David Luban was just elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Professor and Dean Emerita Judy Areen is the new executive director of the Association of American Law Schools. Professor Randy Barnett won a Bradley Foundation prize for his “fearless advocacy of the Constitution.” And a Georgetown Law Journal article by Professors Bob Thompson and Don Langevoort was recently voted among the ten best corporate and securities law articles of 2013. At our spring faculty scholarship luncheon I was pleased to recognize the 41 faculty-authored books published this year. Last but not least, the professors who lead our world-class clinics guide students in representing countless clients in courts and administrative proceedings. As a singular service to the nation, our faculty and friends in the Supreme Court Institute continue to moot almost all of the cases argued before the U.S. Supreme Court (96 percent this year and 100 percent last year).

As I write, graduating students are just weeks away from receiving their degrees. They have learned in classrooms and in courtrooms, and they now go forth to serve their new communities. Despite a challenging legal job market, I’m pleased to report that 93 percent of last year’s class is employed — this includes the 9.8 percent that participate in our Entry into Practice program with work at a sponsoring non-profit organization or NGO. As you know, I’ve made it a priority to help each student reach his or her goal, increasing our career services counseling and reaching out to alumni for help and advice.

Last September, I wrote about our ongoing strategic planning process. Building on the successful record of previous deans, I have significantly increased alumni engagement in the strategic planning exercises. In addition to members of our various alumni boards, more than 93 other alumni took time to review draft plans and counsel us. Their time and advice has been inspirational to me and will have a favorable impact on our school’s future. I'll have more to say about the final plan and some important new initiatives later in the summer, so stay tuned for further details.

Resourcing our shared goals is a never-ending task. As you know, we are a part of the university-wide fundraising program For Generations To Come: the Campaign for Georgetown. I’m pleased to report that many alumni have helped us reach $129 million toward our $150 million school goal. For those of you who have shoulderered this load, you have my deepest gratitude! For those of you who've had other philanthropic priorities or who are still making up your mind, I encourage you to get on board.

The reputation of our school has never been higher. We have unique competitive advantages — an unbeatable location, a bounty of curricular offerings, a stellar faculty, strong international reputation and a fabulous student body. But most important, our reputation rests on the shoulders of alumni like you. It continues to be an honor to lead this very fine community. Thank you.

With best regards,

William M. Treanor
Dean and Professor
Georgetown Law Center