Dear Alumni,

Spring at the Law Center is an exciting time to reflect on successful endings and challenging new beginnings. As we celebrate the remarkable achievements of the Class of 2015 and wish our graduates well on their career journeys, I wanted to update you on recent developments at Georgetown Law — innovations that are helping to further our long-range mission.

As in every other area, technology is transforming legal practice, and this academic year we have focused on strengthening our program in law and technology, already one of the leading programs in legal education. Our new Center on Privacy and Technology, launched last summer, has begun producing cutting-edge work, thanks to a superb team of innovators. Professor David Vladeck, who spent several years heading the Federal Trade Commission’s Bureau of Consumer Protection, and the Center’s Executive Director Alvaro Bedoya taught an exciting new practicum course this spring, one that paired students from Georgetown and MIT to explore current privacy problems and draft model legislation. We’ve also created a Privacy and Technology Fellows program in which recent graduates spend six months at a for-profit company and six months at a nonprofit or government entity. So our privacy and technology fellows might have the unique experience of working in the D.C. office of Google and the nonprofit Electronic Privacy Information Center — in one fellowship year.

We were pleased to honor Professor Julie Cohen in April as the inaugural Mark Claster Mamolen Professor in Law and Technology. The professorship was made possible by the estate of the late entrepreneur, who believed that having the opportunity to attend Georgetown Law changed the course of his life. An expert on intellectual property, technology and information privacy law, Julie is also helping to lead the new technology center. And while you will be hearing more from me this fall about our new faculty, I would like to mention two of them here. Paul Ohm, a top-notch computer expert and a leading privacy law scholar who has served as a senior policy adviser at the FTC, will be teaching privacy and technology courses as well as a criminal justice class. Neel Sukhatme, a patent attorney with a Ph.D. in economics and a J.D. from Harvard, will also be joining us.

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At the same time that we focused on law and technology, we also developed important new programs in areas that have always attracted students to Georgetown Law: social justice, human rights, the Jesuit tradition of service and our ties to Washington, D.C. In April, we announced the D.C. Affordable Law Firm, which we’ve created with DLA Piper and Arent Fox. This unique low-bono law firm, staffed with six new Georgetown Law graduates each year, will provide affordable, high-quality legal services to D.C. residents who do not qualify for free legal aid. With the help of people like Professor Peter Edelman — newly installed in February as the Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Law and Public Policy — we are doing our part to raise awareness of the dire need for legal services in this country. We hope that our firm will inspire other members of the legal profession to act and create a model that other law firms and schools will adopt in the future.

On the international front, we’ve partnered with the Jesuit Refugee Service/USA and other Jesuit law schools to address the challenges faced by Central American child migrants and their families seeking refuge in the United States. This partnership is a proud reflection of our Jesuit identity and illustrates the kinds of issues our human rights community tackles every day. Back home in Washington, we’ve established the new Dale and James J. Pinto (L’76) fellowship at Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. And continuing the theme of service for others, I should mention that our “Hoya Lawyas” basketball team managed to beat the “Hill’s Angels” at the 28th Annual Home Court in March. Displaying a considerable amount of athletic prowess, our faculty-and-staff team not only pulled off a thrilling victory over the congressional team (with a score of 44 to 41) but helped students raise $621,000 for the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless. Wonderful!

Given all the advantages of attending law school in the nation’s capital, we thought that “D.C. Advantage” was the perfect name for a new initiative that helps students gain work experience around the city and use that experience to deepen their education. The “D.C. Advantage: Congress” module consists of a 30-hour-a-week externship on the Hill and a seminar class exploring issues related to that placement; in addition, students in the program take another course from our regular full-time faculty that is relevant to their work on the Hill. A similar “D.C. Advantage” module in business regulation will assist students working in business-related placements this fall, and a third component will help those working in technology-related placements. Other law schools offer D.C. semesters, of course, but these innovative programs are designed to integrate field placements into a rich academic experience in a way that only a law school located in Washington, D.C., can offer.

Much of this, obviously, will help our graduates find jobs in an environment that remains challenging. The Class of 2014 saw an 88.8 percent employment rate at graduation and a 94.1 percent rate 10 months later; 87.6 percent of the jobs graduates had at the 10-month mark required bar passage, 10.7 percent were “J.D. Advantage” positions and 1.7 percent did not require bar passage or a J.D. Those numbers remain steady from those of recent years. Looking ahead to the Class of 2016, 79.3 percent reported by early May that they had found summer employment with a range of employers. We are optimistic that 2015 summer employment will reflect an improvement over last year’s numbers.
Whether they are examining the legality of a children’s app in our Institute for Public Representation clinic, role-playing a government official in the National Security Crisis Law Invitational or presenting a human rights report on migrant children in southern Mexico, our students thrive with every opportunity. Our Barristers’ Council trial advocacy, appellate advocacy and alternative dispute resolution teams enjoyed many rounds of wins in interscholastic competition, including a victory at Fordham’s Kelly Invitational Trial Competition in October; two of our students also took home three of the six individual awards. In January, two students from the Class of 2015 placed second at the prestigious invitation-only Andrews Kurth National Moot Court Championship, narrowly losing the final round by less than a point. A team of our LL.M. students won the 2015 LL.M. International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition in March. So all of the students who come to the Law Center each year are continuing to make us proud.

Everything that we do — and all that we plan to achieve in the years ahead — would not be possible without your help. Whether serving as mentors, helping our graduates find jobs, lending expertise at panel discussions or providing financial assistance to students, you are an integral part of our community and our mission. Please consider making a gift to Georgetown Law today. While financial aid continues to be our foremost fundraising priority, your gift to any area of the Law Center will make a difference to our students. Thank you for your support.

With warm regards,

William Michael Treanor  
Dean and Professor  
Georgetown University Law Center