

# DEAN'S MESSAGE



## Celebrating 35 Years

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Among our nation's law schools, 35 years is not a long time. We have accomplished a lot in those years! Our graduates hold seats in the United States Congress, federal judgeships and head city governments; they serve as court clerks, prosecutors, public defenders, and advocates for civil and human rights; they are authors, songwriters, poets, teachers and entrepreneurs. Our relative youth makes the notable achievements of our alumni—the diversity of their areas of practice and their global impact—even more remarkable.

This 35th Anniversary edition of the *Pierce Law* magazine highlights the varied careers our alumni have pursued since the first graduates accepted their diplomas in May of 1976.

While we have much to celebrate, it is with deep sadness that I recognize longtime trustee Morton E. Goulder, a man of boundless energy and wisdom, who died on January 25, at age 87. An entrepreneur, scientist, leader and philanthropist, Mort personified the values of Pierce Law. His wisdom, support and belief in our mission helped us build a strong foundation that is the Franklin Pierce Law Center today. I also want to acknowledge Yardley Chittick, the nation's oldest living patent attorney and frequent guest at commencement, who died on July 18 at age 107. A graduate of MIT, he turned down a job with Thomas Edison to pursue a career with a golf manufacturer where he learned about patents. He went on to earn a JD degree at George Washington, pass the patent bar, and in 1934 accepted a post at the United States Patent Office.

In a fitting tribute to all those who contributed so generously during these first 35 years, the Board of Trustees adopted a new comprehensive strategic plan that will guide Pierce Law with continuing strength well into the next decade. Five major objectives comprise the core of this plan: Pierce Law seeks to perennially maintain a "Top 100" general law school ranking and to build on its national and international prominence in the field of intellectual property law; Pierce Law will provide a student-centered experience, fostering a culture that develops, nurtures, and educates the whole student and ensures that students are actively supported from matriculation through graduation; Pierce Law will design a required curriculum that provides students the opportunity to achieve those learning outcomes identified by the faculty as essential for excellence in the practice of law; Pierce Law's financial resources must be capable of supporting the initiatives of the strategic plan; and Pierce Law must hire and support a diverse faculty and skilled staff. Each objective will require aggressive action and benchmarks to measure our success.

I invite you to return to campus to tour our newly updated facilities. We can be justifiably proud of our young school, its students and graduates. This special issue celebrates our success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Hutson".

John D. Hutson  
Dean & President

