

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Alumni and Friends,

I recently had the privilege to experience first-hand how well respected our intellectual property programs are across the globe. At the invitation of the Mexican Institute of Intellectual Property (IMPI), Professor Karl Jorda and I spoke at a conference commemorating the 15th anniversary of IMPI and attended by 350 intellectual property (IP) professionals from around the world. We were joined by speakers from as far away as China, Australia and Zimbabwe, including, notably, Francis Gurry, the new director general of the World Intellectual Property Organization. Jorge Amigo, director general of IMPI, mentioned Pierce Law in glowing terms in his introductory remarks. One could not help but notice that we were the only law school represented among the dozen speakers representing governments, NGOs, WIPO, and IP organizations. Our visit to Mexico culminated with the signing of a cooperative education agreement between Pierce Law and IMPI.

The worldwide respect that our IP programs enjoy today is due in no small measure to the endless efforts of Karl and his far-reaching travels, helping to take the knowledge of intellectual property rights to others. It is not without sadness that I announce his plans to retire in June 2009. He is perhaps the quintessential example of a true professional—an IP icon known around the world. To recognize Karl, we are establishing The Karl F. Jorda Professorship in Patent Law and launching a \$500,000 campaign to raise endowment funding. You will hear more about it in the coming weeks and months.

As many of you know, as part of our strategic planning process, talks are currently underway about a potential merger with the University of New Hampshire (UNH). We are in the process of answering important questions about what a merger would mean for Pierce Law in terms of the delivery of education, effects on our autonomy and governance, financial stability, reputation, and student life among other issues. These issues are still very much open questions, which we are gradually resolving.

The reputation piece is critical, particularly in IP. We need to protect it and to build on it. We cannot abandon our reputation or otherwise lose equity in it. Of course, we recognize that our name is a big part of our reputation. If merger would somehow diminish our reputation, I'm sure we won't do it.

We have identified a large number of potential educational synergies—among all our questions, this is key. Our faculty and staff are talking with their UNH counterparts to determine whether there are real opportunities. This is a critical effort. We have had a number of wide-ranging discussions at various levels and forums.

As this edition of magazine went to press, the Board of Trustees was planning to further discuss the potential merger at the January board meeting.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Hutson". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John D. Hutson
Dean & President