

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Alumni and Friends,

2009 has been a year dedicated to reaching the goals set forth in our Strategic Plan, and we are well on our way to accomplishing many. Among them, to increase faculty research, writing and scholarship, and “to develop curriculum opportunities to ensure graduates acquire a substantive foundation, and the fundamental lawyering skills and practical wisdom to allow them to embark on successful legal careers.”

We are pleased to feature the recent accomplishments in faculty research and writing in this edition of the *Pierce Law* magazine with a series of one-on-one interviews. “Our faculty is shaping critical debates about the direction of the law and public policy, while also offering workable solutions to pressing real world problems,” says Professor John Orcutt, our newly appointed associate dean for research, in his introduction to the interviews.

In one interview, Professor John B. Garvey talks about Pierce Law’s most recent curriculum innovation, the Daniel Webster Scholar Honors Program, which is “reinventing the way that law is being taught.” This program is only one of the many innovations that we are making today to strengthen the curriculum as defined in the directives of the Strategic Plan.

Our Social Justice Program will gain vigor this fall with its first full-time director, Erin Corcoran, who is currently a member of the professional staff of the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations. She has held positions on the staffs of Senator Barbara Mikulski, Human Rights First, The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the United States High Commission for Refugees in Zambia.

Additionally, the goal of enhancing the interdisciplinary depth of our legal curriculum is one of the key reasons we continue our affiliation discussions with the University of New Hampshire. The creation of blended programs with the colleges of UNH may help to bring important improvements to the curriculum and carry Pierce Law into the next decade.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and comments.

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

John D. Hutson
Dean & President