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A Spectacular New Year

Every fall when the new 1L students arrive, Cardozo feels fresh, hopeful, and exciting. The energy is palpable, and it is a glorious experience—there is a real sense of renewal.

This fall was especially uplifting as we announced an exceptional gift from the Illumination Fund founded by Laurie M. Tisch, a dynamic and prominent philanthropist whose daughter, Emily Tisch Sussman, graduated in June 2008. The \$5 million gift will endow the Laurie M. Tisch Loan Repayment Assistance Program, which will benefit Cardozo graduates who have chosen public service careers. This contribution greatly strengthens our loan forgiveness program (commonly referred to as an LRAP), and in turn complements our other public service initiatives, which include public service law scholars, summer stipend grants to support uncompensated public service work, and postgraduate fellowships.

Over the years, as I've traveled around the country meeting our graduates, I have discovered that their collective success is extraordinary—the stuff of remarkable stories—and that it has contributed mightily to Cardozo's reputation. As our graduates have made their mark on American life, they have helped Cardozo make its mark. This issue of Cardozo Life highlights a group of alumni working in large law firms. It introduces you to some at the top of their careers and others who are just starting out. In addition to sharing a Cardozo education, they have in common a desire to assist and mentor current students.

As you will quickly notice, I take up a lot of ink in this issue. One article that I wrote is about my trip to Rwanda with Cardozo students, a trip that was part of our January Seminars Abroad Program. This was not only one of the most extraordinary professional experiences I have ever had, it was personally special and moving. I was a Peace Corps volunteer in neighboring Uganda more than 40 years ago, and the trip allowed me to hear whispers of my youth in a way I hadn't in a long time. The other article is an interview conducted by Susan Davis as I prepare to step down as dean at the end of this academic year. In it I reflect on Cardozo's inspired history, my time as dean, and the challenges ahead.

As this exciting semester moves into high gear, I wish to thank you for your continued support and trust. It has made all the difference, and it is vital to the Law School's successes.

With kind regards,

DAVID RUDENSTINE

