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From the Dean

Elections and Transitions

During the last couple of months, it was difficult to avoid seeing a lawyer on television or in the news. The election contest brought Florida and US Supreme Court deliberations and arguments into every home and automobile, and even on to desktops through the Internet. Given the collective energy of Cardozo's faculty, it will come as no surprise that many of them had much to say and write about the election. Cardozo professors appeared on television and were published in journals and newspapers locally and nationally—even internationally. Some of their thoughtful words have been reprinted later in this issue of Cardozo Life. Of course, no one had a bigger role than adjunct professor David Boies, whose representation of Al Gore took him through Florida's courts to the US Supreme Court.

Now that the election is over and the president is inaugurated, it is still easy to watch more legal wrangling either on Court TV or the likes of Law and Order, The Practice, and LA Law re-runs. Perhaps this media activity helps fuel the number of applications the Law School is receiving; but surely it impacts on the number of students who dream of litigating, whether defending or prosecuting.

Many Cardozo graduates go on to practice criminal law. They are at the Manhattan DA's office, the US Attorney's office, in private practice, at the Legal Aid Society, and elsewhere—in New York and around the country. Profiles of some of those who decided to follow their dreams are included in the pages that follow. Most of them received training in Cardozo's well-known Criminal Law Clinic and Intensive Trial Advocacy Program, both of which are supported by the Jacob Burns Ethics Center, which sponsors an annual lecture and courses in professional responsibility. Robert Bennett, President Clinton's lawyer, was this year's lecturer.

For myself, I am still here this semester as a dean waiting to be relieved of duty. Indications are that my successor will be chosen soon and I can return to the faculty and other activities. You should all have confidence, as I do, in the ultimate success of our transition process. Being Cardozo's dean has been an entirely satisfying experience for me personally and professionally. I look forward to giving my successor some suggestions and then getting quickly out of the way so the new regime can take hold.

Warm good wishes,

Paul E. Vertuire