

MESSAGE from the dean

Two Kinds of Beauty

When casual observers remark on what makes USD special, they often include on the list the beauty of our campus.

I have always been struck by how one aspect of that beauty contrasts with another particularly attractive quality of the law school—its intellectual activity. The serene beauty of the Pacific Ocean serves as the backdrop to a frenzy of events on campus. This activity is supported by and attracts the stellar faculty we have assembled at the law school, and enriches our students' educations as they prepare to take on the challenges of law practice in the 21st century.

The spring 2007 semester was noteworthy for featuring a debate between USD School of Law Professor Mike Ramsey and University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall Professor John Yoo, architect of the Patriot Act and the controversial "torture memos," on the timely topic of presidential war powers. We were also visited by Dr. Meizhen Liao, a Chinese linguist who discussed the differences in legal cultures between the U.S. and China, with a focus on different styles in judicial opinions. Dr. Liao's visit fit nicely with the law school's increasing efforts to prepare students to face the challenges of a global legal practice.

Noted consumer activist and former presidential candidate Ralph Nader spoke to a large group in April 2007 on "Challenging Corporate Power and Building Democracy." And the academic year came to an emphatic conclusion with the 2007 commencement address by Associate Justice Alan Page of the Minnesota Supreme Court—covered in the next issue of the *Advocate*. Justice Page is known to football fans as a member of the National Football League Hall of Fame for his exceptional play as a defensive lineman for the Minnesota Vikings—as a member of the Purple People Eaters. His post-football career has been equally impressive, including substantial work to enhance the opportunities for minority youth to pursue college educations.



These events were supplemented by several roundtable discussions by our Institute on Law and Philosophy and by an active faculty colloquium series that brought noted academics to campus.

The schedule for the coming academic year is not yet complete, but it will include a return visit by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia as well as visits by retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and former U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, who was also a member of the Iraq Study Group, a bi-partisan panel that assessed the situation in Iraq and made policy recommendations impacting the Iraq War.

In addition to what all this activity means for students and faculty, we have increased our efforts to make campus events available to the local community. Great law schools are assets to their communities. By serving in this role, they become important not just to their alumni, but to all in the region who appreciate the opportunity to come face-to-face with important figures in the law. These activities can generate additional support for the law school, and this support can generate additional opportunities to enhance our intellectual environment.

Technological advances permit us to serve this community-building role even with far-flung communities. Many of our alumni and friends are outside the San Diego area; others are in town but have scheduling conflicts that prevent their attendance at certain events. They can increasingly partake of USD's intellectual life via streaming video on the Internet. Take a look at www.law.sandiego.edu/webcast.

I hope you will be able to join us, either in person or by the Internet, for some of the exciting events we have on the agenda for this coming year. You can find updated listings of these events at www.law.sandiego.edu. If you do join us, you will come away with a much clearer view of what truly makes USD special.

Kevin Cole
Dean and Professor of Law