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Dean's Remarks

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DEAN'S REMARKS

*Dean Jean F. Holloway**

I am honored to succeed Donald Lewis as Dean of Hamline University School of Law. In over five years under Dean Lewis's watch, the Law School has made great strides in introducing innovative programming, addressing financial challenges, and improving its rankings and reputation. Today, the Law School is an innovative, prestigious, and well-respected asset to the Twin Cities and Mid-West communities and legal profession. It is uniquely positioned to help our graduates be well prepared to meet the challenges of today's legal market, including addressing the significant gap between the available number of legal service providers and the growing need for legal services among the poor and disadvantaged.

As Dean, my job is to maintain and build on the law school's strengths that I have inherited from Dean Lewis and those preceding him. In doing so, I hope to bring a unique perspective informed by my own experiences as a law school student and lawyer, including my many years practicing as an in-house counsel and managing large legal departments.

Throughout my career, but particularly in-house, I learned that the primary value lawyers bring to their clients is the ability to translate the complex legal risks facing them into language their clients can understand, and then to develop practical real world solutions in partnership with those clients to address those risks. It is not enough to opine on the law; rather, the lawyer must treat her clients as true partners by working together to come up with a range of viable options that appropriately address the legal risks in that particular situation. In so doing, the lawyer must have a deep

* Dean Jean F. Holloway joined Hamline Law as dean on January 6, 2014. As dean of the law school, Holloway is responsible for overseeing and providing strategic direction to the law school's academic and related programs, leading the recruitment and retention efforts of the school, managing its fiscal resources, leading its fundraising efforts, and serving as a university officer in collaborative work on governance, strategic planning, fund development, and institutional assessments.

Holloway brings nearly thirty years of legal expertise, including extensive leadership of complex organizations such as Medtronic and CR Bard, experience in corporate and private practice, strategic plan development and execution, and fiscal management expertise. She also has significant fundraising experience, has board chair experience, has served as president for two local bar associations, and remained closely involved in legal education. Holloway has very strong academic credentials, holding two bachelor's degrees from Yale University and a joint M.B.A. and J.D. from the University of Chicago.

Holloway joined Hamline from CR Bard, Inc., a global medical device manufacturer, where she served as vice president, general counsel, and secretary. Previously, she served as vice president and deputy general counsel for Medtronic, and vice president for Boston Scientific and Guidant. She also has experience as a partner at Faegre & Benson (predecessor to Faegre Baker Daniels), a strategic business consultant at McKinsey & Company, and a partner at Dorsey & Whitney.

understanding not only of the applicable law, but also of the client's unique situation, such as for a business, its products, customers, geographic reach, culture and business models.

My approach as Dean will be much the same—with a deep understanding of legal education in general and the Law School in particular—work together in partnership with our faculty, students, and administration to provide real world solutions to enhance our educational and programmatic offerings and our law school environment to ensure that our graduates themselves are real world problem-solvers for their clients. I am committed to and enjoy mentoring students, and I will use this same approach in getting to know students and advising them on how to succeed at the law school and in the real work world, as well as how to best seek out opportunities in their chosen field.

I feel very privileged to be leading the Law School at this time. In my short time here, I have already learned much about the special culture of our School that reinforces every day that the primary mission of a law school is the education of its students. Hamline is fortunate to have many excellent professors who are passionate about their subjects and love teaching. At our school, the faculty invests much of its personal time to interact with students and gets to know most, if not all, of them as individuals. The faculty views these connections with its students as an essential and meaningful part of the job of educating our next generation of lawyers. This trait truly distinguishes Hamline.

Another key asset is the Law School's culture of innovation and experimentation, which began over forty years ago when the School was founded by a group of highly entrepreneurial lawyers seeking to establish a rigorous, yet mission-driven law school. The School's founders were willing to work hard, take chances on new ideas, and do whatever it took to ensure the viability and quality of the School. This spirit has imbued the School's actions over the last forty years. We can see it in the decision to launch the Health Law Institute a few years ago—a decision that has paid great dividends as the Institute has quickly earned a reputation as one of the best in the nation.

We can also see this culture play out in our Business Law Institute (BLI), which helps our students understand not only the business of law, but also how to better understand businesses and how they run. I myself secured an MBA in conjunction with my JD, and the courses offered in our BLI replicate to a large degree many of the courses I took in the MBA program—finance, accounting, tax, and business ethics.

I found these courses to be enormously beneficial throughout my entire legal career, because they provided me with the fundamentals of how businesses operate and what drives decision making in business, both of which are key to a lawyer's appreciation of legal risks and development of workable strategies to mitigate those risks. These skills make graduates more valuable to their business partners and more competitive in the job market, as

businesses seek to bring more legal, regulatory, and compliance work in-house and the legal and compliance environment in which they operate becomes increasingly more complex.

Finally, we see this culture play out in the expansion of our experiential and problem-solving components of the curriculum. As our Kate Kruse, a national leader in experiential education, told the *Minnesota Lawyer* magazine:

“The idea that lawyers are solving problems is really just built into the DNA of the school in many ways, which I think distinguishes Hamline from a lot of law schools We’re really trying to take the knowledge that students are learning in class and help them understand the process by which lawyers figure out what clients want, understand legal issues within the context of the clients lives and try to look for solutions to problems.”¹

When Ed Butterfoss published his remarks in these pages as Dean of the Law School, he wonderfully captured the importance of Hamline’s faculty and culture in sustaining the law schools success. He wrote:

“When I visited the school for an interview, I was impressed. The faculty members I met seemed passionate about their teaching, their research, and their school. I was also impressed that part of the interview process included meeting with students; I could not imagine Georgetown students playing a role in the selection of faculty members. I was also excited by the ‘culture’ of the school. It seemed to me that the faculty felt as if they had beaten the odds by getting the school established, and that the potential of the school was limitless.”²

The task that I face as Dean is to take the unique strengths of Hamline University School of Law, strengths that are grounded in the original founding of the School and that have been well cultivated by the deans who came before me, and adapt them to the twenty-first century realities of legal education and the market for legal services, all while staying true to the history and culture that make Hamline a special place. I am thrilled and feel very privileged to be taking on this important task.

¹ Elizabeth Ahlin, *New Law School Dean's Task: Increase St. Paul-Based Hamline's Visibility*, MINN. LAW., Jan. 16, 2014, available at 2014 WLNR 1806491.

² Edwin J. Butterfoss, Essay, 23 HAMLINE L. REV. XI (2000).

