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The Touro Times

JACOB D. FUCHSBERG LAW CENTER

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 1995

SPECIAL EDITION

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

It is with considerable regret that I report that Vice Dean Harold Abramson has decided to relinquish his position at the end of this academic year. Hal has held the second most senior position at the Law School since October 1, 1987. He began with the title of Associate Dean and assumed his present title of Vice Dean in 1992. His service as Associate and Vice Dean has been incredibly successful.

Hal and I have had a wonderful working relationship. I have consulted him about virtually every decision I have had to make. I have marveled at his ability to analyze a problem. He has great skill in laying out all the issues that must be considered and the consequences of the alternative courses of actions. Being able to turn to Hal Abramson for guidance has considerably reduced my burdens as Dean.

Hal has played a key role in many of the advances our school has made over the last eight years. He was deeply involved in our ABA accreditation effort and in our achieving membership in the AALS. In addition to being a general troubleshooter, he has assisted in the development of new academic programs, developed and supervised our adjunct faculty, has been responsible for working with faculty members on their scholarly endeavors and has assisted me in connection with our proposed move to Central Islip.

One of Hal's major initiatives over the last years has been the development of our international programs. Our program in Moscow is a model of a law school summer program. I was present in 1993 when the program was inspected by an ABA representative. The inspector was an experienced legal educator who had seen many programs in his time. His report evaluating the program was the most enthusiastic I ever have seen. The credit goes to Hal, for he insured that every detail necessary for a successful program had been attended to.

Hal did not limit his involvement in Russia merely to setting up a summer school program. He developed a deep interest in the Russian legal and political systems. In a short time, he became recognized as one of the United States legal educators most knowledgeable about Russia. He is frequently consulted by organizations and individuals that are involved in activities concerning the Russian legal system or Russian legal education. Hal is one of the members of our faculty who has developed a reputation that goes well beyond our own Law School and region.

Hal also has developed a reputation as one of the Country's leading authorities on alternative dispute resolution. He managed to devote time to this interest while attending to his responsibilities as Vice Dean. Once again, this has been of great benefit to the Law School. Hal, for example, serves as Chair of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on ADR. There is a great value to the Law School when our faculty members become involved in important outside activities.

Fortunately, Hal will continue as a faculty member at Touro. He will, however, take on responsibilities in addition to those of a full-time faculty member. Our involvement in international programs has greatly increased in the last few years. It is time that we recognize this by giving responsibilities for all international programs to a particular individual. Accordingly, when Hal steps down as Vice Dean, he will become our Director of International Programs.

In the last couple of years, Hal has expressed an interest to return to full-time teaching. In one way or another, I have prevailed on him to continue as Vice Dean. I eventually realized that it was only fair that he be relieved of his administrative responsibilities and allowed to return to the teaching and scholarship that he missed so much. I did not look forward to the day when Hal would no longer be Vice Dean of the School. I felt that his departure as Vice Dean would make my job much more difficult.

Fortunately, the person who has agreed to step into Hal's shoes is someone eminently well qualified to succeed him. It is with great pleasure that I announce that Professor Eileen Kaufman has agreed to become Vice Dean beginning with the 1996-97 academic year.

Professor Kaufman has been a member of our faculty since 1984. She is one of those persons who can do it all. She is a wonderful classroom teacher, a productive scholar, an involved member of the Law School community, an active participant in professional and bar association activities and a perfect embodiment of a lawyer who takes her pro bono responsibility seriously. The skills that Professor Kaufman has displayed in all of these activities should serve her well in her role as Vice Dean.

Professor Kaufman was my first choice as the successor to Dean Abramson. She is highly regarded by our student body, has the deep respect of her colleagues on the faculty, and is much admired by all the Law School administrators. I know she will do a superb job in her new role.

One of the aspects of my relationship with Dean Abramson that was most important to me was my confidence in his judgment and his ability to substitute for me. In fact, he served as Acting Dean during my sabbatical as well as on other occasions when I was away. The esteem in which I hold Professor Kaufman is such that I know she too will make a great Vice Dean. I am sure that in her new role she will be a distinguished representative of the Law School who will make all of us proud.

Howard A. Glickstein