



*Five years! It is hard to believe it has been so long since I wrote my first "Dean's Letter" for the then Circuit Rider. Much has changed in the intervening years. And by the time you read this letter, the deanship at the law school will have changed hands as well. As many of you already know, on August 1, 2006, I began my duties as the new dean at the Chase College of Law at the Northern Kentucky University. Associate Dean Bill Rich is serving as the interim dean while the law school conducts a national search for my successor.*

*My decision to take the offer of the deanship at Chase was not an easy one for I have come to love our law school very much. (I feel entitled to write "our law school" because of the graciousness of the Alumni Association in awarding me a lifetime honorary membership at this year's Washburn Luncheon held in conjunction with the annual KBA meeting.) Washburn Law is indeed the special place I heard so much about prior to my arrival on campus.*

*These past five years have been a period of change and growth at the law school. Our national ranking has improved; the credentials of our entering students have shot up; the scholarly output of the faculty has increased dramatically; and our classrooms have been renovated. We have expanded our educational programming. We have developed three cutting edge centers of excellence. And we have expanded our outreach to our alumni and to the legal community. None of this would have been without the hard work of our faculty and staff or without your loyal and generous support. Thank you so very much.*

*While we have accomplished much, we are just beginning. "Good enough" is never truly "good enough." While we have become a very good law school, our goal should be to become a great law school. Only an unwillingness on our part to strive for excellence can prevent us from achieving that goal. We must demand greatness of ourselves. And we must continue to grow and change because as Will Rogers cautioned, "Even if we are on the right track, we will eventually get run over if we just sit down!" We can not allow ourselves to become complacent or comfortable. I know that Dean Rich will provide great leadership during the search for the next dean. With your help, he will keep us moving forward. The dean search committee, I am confident, will bring to campus a new dean who will continue our progress. As I have told so many law school applicants, challenge, excitement and success go hand-in-hand at Washburn Law!*

*Allow me to close by thanking you for making these past five years so memorable and rewarding. Be assured that I continue to share with you the pride we all have in being members of the Washburn Law family.*

*Sincerely,*

*Dennis R. Honabach*

