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Dedication

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DEDICATION

*Karen Hastie Williams **

I am delighted to join the celebration of 100 years of teaching excellence at the Columbus School of Law. When I recall my years as a student and subsequently as a guest lecturer, the words that come to mind are “vision,” “innovation,” and “compassion.”

Under the visionary leadership of Dean Clinton Bamburger, Catholic University blazed a new trail in admitting women and African-Americans in more than single digit numbers. When the women arrived, they found that there were extraordinarily gifted teachers--like Florence Roisman who initiated her class on the law of property by engaging her students in a dialogue about the eviction of a woman and her children from an apartment without heat or water. Brooksley Born also served as a role model for students with the first course offered on gender bias in the law. Ike Hunt taught corporations from the perspective of a young lawyer who had already served at the SEC and encouraged future entrepreneurs--black and white--not to be afraid to dream.

Innovations were particularly noticeable in the array of clinics, internships, and other opportunities to learn about the law outside of the classroom. We experienced the law as it impacts people, adding a real world dimension to our studies. This element of the curriculum was groundbreaking in the early seventies, but is now considered an essential component of legal education at all national law schools.

Compassion took many different forms. Whether it was counseling an elderly client at Neighborhood Legal Services about obtaining disability payments, or working with a practitioner at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law on a brief in an employment discrimination class action, Catholic University students knew instinctively that public service would continue to be an essential part of their future.

I am enormously proud that vision, innovation, and compassion are

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still elements of the Catholic University education today and will be passed on to future generations of teachers and learners. These elements were certainly important to me as my career advanced from law student, to Supreme Court law clerk, to law firm associate, to congressional lawyer, to White House advisor, to private firm partner, and to corporate director. In the new century CUA Law students will be faced with breathtaking developments in technology and new areas of law--bioethics, cyberspace, extraterrestrial standards, and internet risks just to name a few. Using the tools and experiences they receive from the Law School, I have no doubt that future graduates will provide leadership to open new vistas in law as well as in the value systems that guide the communities in which they live.