



## DEAN'S MESSAGE )

BEFORE JOINING THE LAW SCHOOL AS DEAN IN AUGUST, I HAD ONLY SMALL GLIMPSES INTO THE RICH AND VIBRANT ACADEMIC COMMUNITY THAT IS USD SCHOOL OF LAW.

Over the past few months, I have often felt like a kid in a candy shop, constantly delighted by the people and activities around me. The topics covered in this issue of the *Advocate* are illustrative of what I see happening on a daily basis, making this such an exciting community:

- Impressive achievements of our students, alumni and faculty as evidenced by the numerous awards, prizes, and publications
- A richness brought to the community by our commitment to diversity
- The continuing impact of our legal clinics, advocacy programs and other centers
- Lively intellectual discourse at events such as the Neuroscience and the Law Conference and the annual Climate & Energy Law Symposium

- The variety of experience brought to USD by students in our graduate and special degrees programs like the MS in Legal Studies
- New initiatives like our partnership with the Africa Justice Foundation, which gives a global dimension to our commitment to service
- Innovative academic programs, such as the Technology Entrepreneurship Clinic, that give students practical hands-on experience and connect them (and us) more closely to business and IP communities in San Diego and nationally

Coming into academia after practicing law for more than 20 years, I am well aware that this school is not immune to the challenges facing the legal profession. To many of our students and recent graduates, the promise of a successful and satisfying legal career may seem illusory. But I remain confident that our students can, and will, succeed in finding fulfilling careers if they make optimal use of the legal training we provide, remain committed to their professional development and have the flexibility to seek new job opportunities—wherever those opportunities may be.

As I learn about the many strengths of USD School of Law, I am inspired to be ambitious in setting our goals to enhance legal education. I encourage our students and graduates to be equally ambitious in setting goals for their own legal careers.

Stephen C. Ferruolo  
Dean, USD School of Law