

My Friend Leo

Amid the uncertainties of the past several months, there is one event for which all members of the Hastings community must be thankful: Professor Martinez once again has become Dean Martinez.

Last spring, the Hastings Board of Directors was confronted with the unexpected challenge of naming an acting Chancellor and Dean for the College. In view of the on-going recession, the state budget crisis, and the Governor's proposal to rescind all state funding for the law school, it was imperative that the Board act quickly to appoint an interim Dean who would have the immediate confidence of students, staff, faculty, alumni, and political leaders. Dean Martinez was the obvious choice, because he possesses that essential quality and so much more.

One of Leo's first tasks was to go to Sacramento to persuade the Legislature that UC Hastings remains a vital part of California's *public* educational system. Leo testified before the conference committee on the state budget and reminded the legislators that Hastings serves the broad public interest in several important ways. Our (relatively) low cost, coupled with our admissions policies and LEOP program, have afforded tens of thousands of talented students a first-rate legal education that in many cases may not otherwise have been available to them. Our graduates then give back to society in myriad ways, from careers in government to *pro bono* legal work to community service. Our clinics and internship programs provide vital legal assistance to disadvantaged individuals and under-served communities. And our faculty and student scholarship contributes to the betterment of the legal system and the people it serves. In the end, Leo saved our state funding.

Dean Martinez could speak with credibility on these subjects, because in so many ways he personifies UC Hastings. Leo is a proud alumnus. Since joining the faculty in 1985, he has taught a generation of Hastings students (some of whom are now members of the California Legislature.) Through his twelve year tenure as Academic Dean, he has gained a detailed understanding of the challenges of managing a public law school in tight fiscal times. And as a lawyer, he has given back to the community through his service in the Army, *pro bono* work, and service on the boards of directors of a variety of nonprofits such as Public Advocates, the St. Francis Hospital Foundation, Access Group, the Berkeley Law Foundation, and KQED.

I have had the privilege of knowing Leo for more than half of my life. When I think of the qualities that comprise a good person and a good friend, Leo has them all. He is kind and compassionate. He is a creative thinker and a hard worker. He is a devoted husband and loving father. He is generous and forgiving. He has a gentle sense of humor, and he somehow manages to find light and laughter even in the most dire of circumstances. He is a person of honesty and integrity, and he loyal to his friends. For the sake of all of us in the Hastings community, he also is exceedingly loyal to this institution of which is he so fond.

We are all lucky to have Leo as our Chancellor and Dean, if only for this one year. I am certainly lucky to have him as my friend.

Professor Brian Gray