



Ave Maria  
SCHOOL OF LAW

Dean Bernard Dobranski  
Ave Maria School of Law  
3475 Plymouth Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Dear Dean Dobranski:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as Director of Development for Ave Maria School of Law. I consider it a privilege to be part of an institution with such a noble mission, and founded upon the thought of Pope John Paul II—"Faith and Reason." It is a delight to work with so many talented and dedicated colleagues. And it is stimulating to work alongside so many bright scholars and energetic law students.

When the Law School announced in February its intention to relocate to Florida, it forced Val and me to face the question of whether or not it was right for our family to also relocate. We were very torn by this. On the one hand, the thought of leaving the Law School was not at all appealing since we so thoroughly enjoy being part of this important apostolate. On the other hand, we are so entrenched here in southeast Michigan, that the thought of leaving our families and friends, our parish, and the organizations with which we are involved also has very little appeal.

Since it seemed that neither deciding to stay in Michigan or relocate to Florida would be ideal for us, we ended up deciding not to decide. Basically we felt that we had two years to enjoy both living here in Michigan, and continuing to work with the Law School and doing what we could to help make a smooth and successful transition. We were content that over the next two years circumstances would evolve to help make the decision easier for us.

What has transpired however, quite suddenly and entirely by surprise, is that I have been offered an opportunity to work with another institution in southeast Michigan whose mission, vision, and values fit hand in glove with those of the Law School.

Therefore I will be leaving Ave Maria School of Law to serve as Vice President of Development and External Affairs at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. Like the Law School, the direction of Sacred Heart is based upon the thought of Pope John Paul II—to be a herald of the "New Evangelization."

From what I have come to learn over the last couple of months, through conversations with benefactors all over the country, and through visits with leaders in the business and legal communities in southwest Florida, I have no doubt that the Law School will succeed marvelously in Florida. The new location will enhance the mission and reputation of the Law School, will increase opportunities for our students, and will catalyze enrollment, fundraising, and program development. Although I know that it would be exciting to play a part in this next phase of Ave Maria School of Law, I am certain that it is best for me and my family to accept the new opportunity that has been placed before me.

I want to close this letter by thanking you, most sincerely, for your leadership and guidance these past few years. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked for you and I wish you, and the Law School, the very best.

Sincerely,

*David J. Kelley*  
David J. Kelley