Thanking Associate Dean Christina B. Whitman, ’74

All joking aside — and there was plenty of joking throughout the appreciation dinner for Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Christina B. Whitman, ’74 — “I don’t think anyone here really knows how much difference you have made to the Law School over the last four and one-half years,” Dean Jeffrey S. Lehman, ’81, explained in the serious side of his comments.

Whitman, the first woman to serve the Law School as associate dean for academic affairs, is leaving the post and returning to...
Professor Evan Caminker named associate dean for academic affairs

Professor Evan Caminker, a constitutional law specialist who recently returned to the Law School after serving in the U.S. Justice Department, has been named associate dean for academic affairs, effective September 1. He replaces Professor Christina B. Whitman, '74, who has served since 1997 and was the first woman to hold the post. (See adjoining story.)

Caminker came to Michigan from the UCLA Law School, where he was a faculty member from 1991 to 1999. A distinguished scholar of constitutional law who clerked for Justice William Brennan at the U.S. Supreme Court and for Judge William Norris of the Ninth Circuit, Caminker received his B.A. in political economy and environmental studies, summa cum laude, from the University of California at Los Angeles. He received his J.D. from Yale Law School.

As an undergraduate student, Caminker earned the Outstanding Senior Award, the Phi Beta Kappa Top Junior at UCLA Award, and two national championship debate awards. In law school, he was a senior editor of the Yale Law Journal and a Coker Fellow, and he was awarded the Benjamin Scharps Prize for Excellence in Legal Writing. He has practiced law with the Center for Law in the Public Interest in Los Angeles and with Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in Washington, D.C., and has been a visiting fellow at the University of Cambridge. He recently completed a leave to serve in the federal government as deputy assistant attorney general in the Office of Legal Counsel.

A gifted classroom teacher, Caminker has received the ACLU Distinguished Professors Award for Civil Liberties Education. He has taught in the fields of constitutional law, civil procedure, and federal courts, and has lectured widely before audiences ranging from the Los Angeles Chapter of the Federalist Society to the Free Society of the University of Cambridge. His research interests include the intersection of state and federal powers and the interplay of lower and higher courts. He has published articles in Michigan Law Review, Columbia Law Review, Stanford Law Review, Supreme Court Review, Texas Law Review, and Yale Law Journal.

His most recent work includes an inquiry into the nature of voting on multi-member courts.

There were two things she had not fully appreciated before becoming associate dean, Whitman said: the high esteem the students have for the faculty, and "what an incredible staff of administrators we have."

"The theme of my talk is gratitude," Suellyn Scarneccia, '81, associate dean for clinical affairs, began her remarks. "Thanks," she said to Whitman, "for your hard work and dedication." Thanks "for your honesty." Thanks "for maintaining a sense of humor."

Lehman noted that Whitman "showed an incredible ability to find solutions to problems that didn't seem to have solutions." Whitman, he said, has been "a wonderful partner."

the faculty September 1. She has served in the position since 1997, and is to be succeeded by Professor Evan Caminker (see story on this page).

More than 100 colleagues, friends, family members and well-wishers gathered for an appreciation dinner for Whitman at the Lawyers Club in May. From quips from Professor Richard D. Friedman about the significant increase in his e-mail traffic during Whitman's deanship (he had a chart to prove his argument), to a skit presented by those who had gathered with Whitman for the monthly administrators meetings, the evening was filled with good-natured recollections of Whitman's tenure.

"One of the things that has been terrific for me is that I have worked with such fabulous people," Whitman told her well-wishers. "I'm actually going to miss meetings. This has been a great time for me. It has really been a tremendous pleasure."

"I don't think anyone here really knows how much difference you have made to the Law School over the last four and one-half years."

— Dean Jeffrey S. Lehman, '81

PHOTO BY GREGORY FOX

Professor Evan Caminker

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