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Class of 1981 Fifteen Year Report Letter to Faculty

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
LAW SCHOOL
HUTCHINS HALL
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48109-1215

February 19, 1998

To: Faculty and Senior Administrators

From: David Chambers *David*

Subject: Alumni Surveys, Classes of 1981 and 1991

As most of you know, the law school has been surveying each year for nearly three decades its alums who are 5 and 15 years out of law school. We have accumulated a treasure trove of information, unique among American law schools, about lawyers in their early careers.

I am enclosing here reports on the two most recent classes for which reports have been completed, the classes of 1981 and 1991. Those who have read our reports in the past will find continuations of trends we have been observing for several years: most of our graduates entering mid-sized and large firms after graduation; more and more of those still in firms after 5 years unhappy with their careers; more of those 15 years out earning huge incomes, but not very satisfied with their careers; comparatively high satisfaction for young graduates in government, public defenders and "public interest work"; major similarities and major differences persisting in the career patterns of women and men; and so forth.

At the end of each report, we reprint verbatim the responses of classmembers to an open-ended question asking for their views about "life or law school or whatever." As ever, many have pungent views about all three.

I would, of course, welcome any comments you may have. I would also be glad to help you dredge our data for insights into issues that interest you.