Toward a Capital Campaign

Howard G. Krane

Two years ago I was invited to lunch with Dean Gerhard Casper and Ed Bergman, the chairman of the University Board of Trustees. While I had no idea of their specific purpose, it did seem an unlikely threesome for a purely social lunch, and I suspected a request to increase my financial support of the Law School. But I was not at all prepared for what they had in mind.

After the social amenities were out of the way, they proceeded to tell me that a major capital fund raising campaign was long overdue for the school. The needs are many—more space for the library collection, enriched support for research and for faculty salaries, and a substantial increase in the institution's basic endowment to bring it to the level of the other major law schools and help secure its economic future.

I was so convinced of the necessity for the fund raising effort that I accepted on the spot their request that I chair its initial planning committee. But walking back to my office after the lunch, I pondered the specific reasons why I had so quickly agreed to help. I knew I had just committed a large amount of time over the next few years to help raise money for the Law School; I knew I had just agreed to make a financial commitment that would be

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From start to finish, the largest charitable contribution of my life; and I knew that I would have to work very hard to become adept at fund raising—an activity I had never done in a major way before.

I decided during that walk back to the office that my easy agreement to take on that difficult task came from a number of feelings about my education and the profession it has enabled me to enter. I have always felt a deep sense of indebtedness to the Law School for the splendid education I received and the extent to which that learning experience has continued to enrich my professional life. That debt certainly goes beyond what money can repay, but it does have a financial basis. Since tuition charges never do cover all the costs of training, all the students who attend Law School do, in fact, receive financial aid from a variety of sources. Moreover, I went to the Law School on a scholarship. Just from a financial view, then, I have always felt that giving to the Law School is in part a way of repaying a very real obligation. The school invested in me when I was, at best, a speculative investment. I have profited handsomely from this investment over the years, and the Law School is entitled to share handsomely in the returns.

During the past two years, the initial planning committee has become the permanent campaign committee and I have become its chairman. I have spent many hours talking to graduates and friends of the Law School, both to assess their enthusiasm for the campaign and to solicit actual pledges of support.

I have noticed that those who share my enthusiasm for helping the school also give many of the same reasons for doing so. They believe the school to be a unique institution that offers the kind of rigorous legal education that should be supported, and they think of the school as a partner in their professional life as it was the source of their training.

Even before the official announcement of the campaign, several individuals had made substantial contributions towards the $20 million goal. Dino D'Angelo, who is interviewed on the following pages, has pledged major funding for the needed library addition, and others have come forward to lend their help almost before it was asked. Three recent donors seem to me to especially symbolize the feeling of commitment to the continuing excellence of the school that I found so prevalent in my talks with alumni and friends.

One of the school's staunchest supporters was Frank Greenberg, J.D. '32, who died last March 13. Besides being a highly respected lawyer and an outspoken champion of judicial reform in Illinois, Frank was also a loyal friend of the Law School. He brought the same energy and effectiveness to his duties as president of the alumni association as he did to his presidency of the Chicago Bar Association. In accepting a public service citation from the University for his imaginative and tireless work toward improving the judiciary, he wrote, "I will be happy to have the award inscribed Frank Greenberg, Ph.B. '30, J.D. '32. I know of nothing of which I am more proud than being a recipient of these degrees from the university which I cherish so greatly." He liked to refer to the Law School as "my law school," not as a symbol of possession but as an indication of his obligation to the place that had trained him for a profession he loved. His sense of obligation was such that in his will he named the Law School as principal beneficiary of his estate, which will be used to endow the Frank and Bernice J. Greenberg Professorship and to provide scholarship aid for Law School students.
Ruth Wyatt Rosenson

Ruth Wyatt Rosenson, another long-time friend of the Law School, was never herself a student here. After receiving her Ph.B. from the University in 1927, she studied music education at Northwestern University, where she received a B.M.E. and a Ph.D. and then taught for many years. But her late husband Harry N. Wyatt, J.D. '21, was a distinguished and active alumnus. Through her partnership in her husband's efforts to help the school, Mrs. Rosenson came to know faculty and students and to develop a respect and admiration for the institution that continued after his death in 1981. Together Ruth and Harry Wyatt had worked to establish the Harry N. Wyatt Professorship in Law in 1977. Now Mrs. Rosenson is creating both a professorship and a scholarship fund in her own name, not only as a tribute to the memory of her husband's long involvement with the institution but also as an expression of her own close association with the school.

The Hall family's association with the Law School began only two years after the institution was founded, when James Parker Hall agreed to come from Stanford in 1904 to serve as the Law School's first permanent dean. For the next twenty-four years, Dean Hall worked to meld traditional approaches to legal education with innovative curricular ideas that make the Law School distinctive. In 1930 the James Parker Hall Professorship of Law was established in his memory by alumni who had benefited from his leadership. Through the years, Edward Wilcox Hinton, George Gleason Bogert, Wilber Griffith Katz, Sheldon Tefft, and Bernard D. Meltzer have held the professorship. The chair is now occupied by Richard A. Epstein. But the Hall family's service to the University did not stop with that first generation. Dean Hall's son James Parker Hall II, who received his Ph.B. from the University in 1927, served as University Treasurer from 1946 to 1969, and has always taken an active role in alumni affairs and fund raising. Now his son James Parker Hall III has pledged to fully endow the James Parker Hall Professorship, both to secure the memorial to his grandfather and to honor his father.

These individuals and countless others I've talked to since I became chairman of the capital campaign want the Law School to continue in its tradition of excellence so that current and future generations of young people can benefit as we have. The faculty that trained us reflected a standard of intellectual discipline that characterized the school before our time as it characterizes it today. It is a quality worth perpetuating, and I rejoice that so many alumni and friends are prepared to join the effort to see that it will continue.