A message from the Associate Dean of External Affairs

Dear Alumni and Friends,

During my nearly seven years at the Law School, I have had the great pleasure of working with many of our dedicated alumni and friends. Your enthusiasm and generosity are truly unparalleled, and on behalf of the entire External Affairs team, I thank you for making our jobs both fulfilling and fun!

As we approach the end of the University of Chicago Campaign: Inquiry and Impact, I am pleased to share that we have achieved tremendous success, raising over $225 million in support of the Law School. Thanks to your remarkable support and engagement at all levels, we continue to sustain and enhance the people and programs that define the Law School.

Each year our alumni and friends provide critical annual funding that is vital to our students, to our faculty, and to the programs and initiatives that make the Law School a preeminent institution. Last year, your contributions helped us to achieve new and important milestones.

For more than a century, the Law School has molded students into analytical thinkers. We have produced not only the best lawyers, but also leaders in government, legal education, entrepreneurial ventures, nonprofit organizations, and beyond. With your leadership support, we will continue to do so for generations to come.

We are so grateful for your continued generosity and truly appreciate remaining among your philanthropic priorities. Thank you!

Warm regards,

Carolyn M. Grunst
Associate Dean of External Affairs

Fiscal Year 2017-18 By the Numbers

$19,550,000
Total dollars raised

32%
Alumni Participation Rate

This figure includes both outright gifts and multi-year pledges committed during fiscal year 2018.

3,025
Total Alumni Donors

Carolyn M. Grunst

Top 3 Alumni Classes for Participation

1st: Class of 2018
78%

2nd: Class of 1965
50%

3rd: Class of 1973
50%

540
# of alumni who have given 25+ consecutive years to the Law School

997
# of people in the Dean’s Circle Giving Society (donors of $1,000+)

P.S. MAKE IT EASY AND GIVE ONLINE AT
WWW.LAW.UCHICAGO.EDU/GIVENOW
Gift to Create Wang & Yan Scholarship Fund Will Support Chinese Students at the Law School

A gift from Weidong “Paul” Wang (LLM ’94, JSD ’99) has established the Wang & Yan Scholarship Fund, which will provide financial support to Chinese students pursuing degrees at the Law School. Eligible recipients of the scholarships include US citizens or permanent residents of Chinese descent or citizens or permanent residents of China.

The fund is named in part for Wang’s parents. “They supported me in every way to have a fulfilling life,” he said. “My mother was a teacher, and she was the kindest person I have ever known. My father was a businessman whose wise guidance always helped me. I know they would have seen this gift, for this purpose, as the right thing to do.”

Wang’s support for the Law School and UChicago as a whole has been prodigious. He currently serves on the Law School Council, and earlier this year the University recognized him with its prestigious Alumni Service Award. His desire to study at the Law School was ignited in 1988, when as a legislative staff member in China he attended a summer course at Peking University taught by Cass Sunstein, who was then on the Law School faculty. “This was a man I wanted to learn from, and he told me that coming to the Law School would be a great experience for me,” Wang said. “He was right. There were so many brilliant professors there that I audited a very large number of courses that were not required for my degrees.” Sunstein became Wang’s academic advisor as Wang pursued his degrees, and the two have remained in touch since then.

“Being at the Law School was life-changing for me,” he said, “and the Law School has a great network, too. I got my first internship and later my first associate job at Sidley Austin because graduates of the Law School saw promise in me.”

Since returning to China in 2003, he has been engaged in practicing law, teaching at the law school and MBA program at Peking University, and serving as a director at several corporations. He is currently a partner at the Zhong Lun Law Firm, a top-tier law firm in China with more than 2,000 attorneys. His focus areas include private equity and venture capital, mergers and acquisitions, foreign direct investment, and securities offering. He cotranslated A Behavioral Approach to Law and Economics by Jolls, Sunstein, and Thaler into Chinese for publication in Peking University Law Review in 2005.

His overall service to the University has included serving as president of the UChicago Alumni Club of Beijing for about 10 years and being a leader in organizing and guiding the 2015 UChicago China Summit, which was attended by University President Zimmer and more than 200 alumni. He is working on a book that will contain the reflections of about 100 Chinese graduates of the University and the Law School. “As I do the interviews for the book, every Law School alum that I talk to is so happy that they went there,” he observed.

He led a group of alumni and students in producing a Chinese-language video about the University that has now been viewed more than 20 million times. “I don’t think any of us expected that number of views or even anything close to it,” he said. “I think it speaks to the exceptional regard for all parts of the University among the Chinese people. Students want to come to UChicago, and I hope my gift makes it possible for more of them to attend the Law School. If they have even half the experience that I did, their lives will be permanently better for it.”
Scholarship Students at the Law School

Hundreds of students like Megan and Travis benefit from scholarship funds each year, as have thousands of deserving Law School alumni. With approximately 84 percent of students receiving financial aid, scholarship support is critically important. It allows us to attract top prospective students to the Law School, raising the intellectual rigor for all students and faculty.

The impact scholarships have had on so many is tremendous and is made possible by the generous support of our outstanding community of alumni and friends. Thank you to those of you who have already made gifts, and thank you in advance to those of you who will extend your philanthropy in the months to come as well!

MEGAN LINDGREN, ’20

HIGHER EDUCATION:
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign—Bachelor of Arts, Economics and Statistics

SKILLS/HONORS/ AWARDS/ EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:
Law Women’s Caucus (President); Law Women Nationwide Leadership Retreat (Founder); Research Assistant to Professor Jennifer Nou; International Fellows Program for LL.M.s (J.D. International Fellow); Women’s Advocacy Project (Data Analysis Lead); International Immersion Program (China, March 2018); Yoga for Lawyers

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCES PRIOR TO THE LAW SCHOOL:
Abbott Laboratories, Global Economics and Corporate Strategy, Economist

WHO ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE LAW SCHOOL PROFESSORS? WHY?
My favorite professor at the Law School is Professor Genevieve Lakier. I took her Criminal Law course during my 1L year. She encouraged class discussion and challenged us to rethink our prior assumptions about criminal law. I also had the opportunity to collaborate with Professor Lakier on the Women’s Advocacy Project, a student-led research study on women’s experiences and achievements at the Law School. She was incredibly supportive and always willing to talk through tough gender issues in the legal field.

My scholarship has allowed me the flexibility to take advantage of internship opportunities in government. These experiences helped me to develop valuable legal research and writing skills and learn from lawyers at the forefront of regulatory issues. Scholarship support means that I will have a significantly lower debt burden at graduation and will be able to pursue a career in federal government with less worry and more confidence. Thank you so much for your generous support!

—Megan Lindgren

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO TAILOR YOUR STUDIES FOR YOUR PARTICULAR CAREER GOALS?
I am interested in pursuing a career in banking and securities regulation. During fall quarter, I interned part-time with the Securities & Exchange Commission in the Chicago regional office. The experience complemented my Securities Regulation course and exposed me to how the government investigates securities fraud and brings enforcement actions.
TRAVIS GIDADO, ’21

EDUCATION:
Yale University—Bachelor of Arts, Ethics, Politics and Economics
University of Cambridge, King’s College—Master of Philosophy, Public Policy
Peking University—Master of Arts, Chinese Studies

SKILLS/HONORS/AWARDS/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:
Law: Black Law Students Association; International Law Society, 1L Representative; International Immersion Program; Doctoroff Business Leadership Program; UChicago Careers in Law Mentorship Program
Undergraduate: Office of Undergraduate Admissions (Head Student Ambassador); Trumbull College Council (Vice President); Intercultural Affairs Council (Steering Committee); Dean’s Advisory Committee; Center for the Study of Globalization; The Baker’s Dozen (a cappella group)

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCES PRIOR TO THE LAW SCHOOL:
Legal Analyst, Goldman Sachs; Research Intern (Europe Program), Center for Strategic and International Studies; Research Analyst, Atlantic Media Company; Intern (Social Investment and Finance Team), Cabinet Office—Government of the United Kingdom; Intern (National Economic Council), The White House; Healthcare and Regulation Research Manager, Recare Solutions

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE LAW SCHOOL SO FAR?
The professors here are unparalleled, and it has been an honor to learn from the preeminent minds in the field. I cannot wait to seek out opportunities to research with them over the next few years.

I am exceedingly grateful for your generous contribution to my educational pursuits. My parents always taught me to dream big, and because of your assistance, I stand ready to realize my most ambitious goals upon graduating from this incredible institution. I know that my aims would fall short without your help, and I thank you for your support.

—Travis Gigado

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO ATTEND LAW SCHOOL?
It was a desire to bring my experiences in business and policy full circle with an anchoring experience in the law. I know that my career will likely span both the public and private sectors, and the skills I gain from a legal education will prove invaluable as I navigate a complicated and constantly-shifting political, economic, and social landscape.