

Collective Philanthropy Motivates Peers and Breaks Giving Day Records

When the Law School surpassed its targets at last year's Giving Day, part of that success was attributable to a challenge grant sponsored by LLM graduates at the Zurich-based law firm Homburger. Six graduates—Peter



Daniel Daeniker, '96

Widmer, '68; Franz HOFFET, '88; René Bösch, '91; Daniel Daeniker, '96; Claudio Bazzani, '06; and Benjamin Leisinger, '12—made a challenge of \$20,000, payable if more than 50 Law School Alumni were to give at the \$1,000 Dean's Circle level. Needless to say, the target was met.

The challenge was led by Daniel Daeniker. An indefatigable supporter of the Law School, he currently serves on the Law School Council, has spearheaded a strong reunion presence among alumni from his class, and for 25 years has coordinated ongoing communication among those alumni.

"I am grateful to the Law School for the eye-opening and career-enhancing education I received there," he said. "Beyond that, I also appreciate the values that it continuously practices—intellectual honesty, respect for the free market and free enterprise, and a commitment to an open marketplace of ideas."

Daeniker joined Homburger in 1988, right out of law school. He completed a doctoral degree in law in 1992. His practice largely focuses on mergers and acquisitions, particularly cross-border transactions. Ranked as a top European and global attorney for more than 15 years, he headed Homburger's M&A practice group for five years, was managing partner from 2013 until 2019, and now serves as the senior partner of the firm.

He said that he particularly enjoys cross-border transactions that require his on-the-ground presence in different countries. "I have always loved travel, and I'm glad to have been able to do more than my share of it," he said. It helps that he speaks what he calls four and a half

languages—German, English, French, and Spanish, plus "enough Italian to get by." He leads Homburger's India focus group and has traveled regularly to India during the past decade on client assignments.

He described what he called a "stealth tactic" that he has employed during negotiations in languages he doesn't know: "I would get a phrasebook and make myself fluent in one or two essential things that I could say when things got tense—'Sab kuchh chalta hai' in Hindi, or 'hakol beseder' in Hebrew, for example, both of which loosely translate into 'Everything is fine.' Used at the right moments, this approach could be quite disarming, and it also caused the participants to wonder how much else I understood of what they were saying among themselves."

Increasingly, he is committed to sharing experiences and insights as he mentors the firm's younger lawyers. "René Bösch, who used to run our finance team, and I consider it our responsibility to empower the next generation that is going to sustain and grow Homburger, so we both have been handing off more and more client assignments to create opportunities for our young partners to grow. This also opens more space for us to gauge what's ahead in life," he said. He is doing more teaching at the University of Zurich's law school, serving on corporate boards that include the Rothschild and Co bank and the global construction company Hilti, and leading fundraising for Avenir Suisse, a Swiss free-market think tank.

His wife shares his love of travel, and they are anxious for the end of COVID restrictions so they can resume their journeys. "We have roamed the world together, including many wonderful experiences with our two children, who are grown now," he said. "We might not know where we'll be going in the near future, but one thing is as certain as can be in these crazy days—we'll be in Chicago for my class's 2026 reunion, celebrating with a strong contingent of my classmates all that the Law School has meant to us and what we have meant to each other."