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Philanthropy Spotlights

by Barbara Pash

Stories of generosity and lessons in giving



Elizabeth and M. Peter Moser

When M. Peter Moser died in 2008, Elizabeth Moser, his widow, thought long and hard about how best to memorialize him. Her husband of almost 60 years, a Baltimore attorney in private practice, was a recognized expert in business, estate and tax law. But his passion was professionalism and ethics.

“His grandfather and father had been judges in Baltimore City,” Moser said of her husband. “He loved the law, and he wanted lawyers to hold themselves to the highest standards.”

To that end, Moser was active in local, state, and national attorney groups. He served as president of the Baltimore City and Maryland State Bar Associations, treasurer of the American Bar Association and president of the American Bar Foundation. He was involved in an ongoing basis with committees of the

organized Bar to update and revise ethical guidelines for the profession.

“He had a mission—how to put ethical principles into reality. I wanted to keep his work alive and to develop it further, and the University of Maryland School of Law is an excellent home” for his legacy, said Moser whose husband, though not a graduate of UM Carey Law, actively participated in the School of Law’s legal clinics.

In 2011, Moser, with the support of all family members, used the Moser Family Philanthropic Fund to endow the \$1 million Moser Ethics in Action Initiative. Ideas range from creating a new and specific course on ethics to integrating ethical issues throughout the curriculum.

Susan Leviton ’72, a UM Carey Law professor who teaches in the children’s law clinic, knew the Mosers for 20 years. She describes them as “a wonderful team who truly cared about Baltimore City.”

While the idea for the gift was Moser’s, Leviton said the two spent many hours discussing where the money would go and how it would be spent. Said Leviton: “She was clear about the goal, and her gift addresses that—specifically, training young lawyers in how to exercise good judgment and in the hard analytical thinking about the right thing to do.”



“[My husband] had a mission—how to put ethical principles into reality. I wanted to keep his work alive and to develop it further, and the University of Maryland School of Law is an excellent home” for his legacy.

—Elizabeth Moser

Yitai Hu

Class of 1994

When Yitai Hu was attending the School of Law, he hardly envisioned that one day he would be ranked as a leading intellectual property (IP) attorney. IP wasn't as prominent as it is now, and Maryland offered a single course in the subject, on patents, trademarks, and copyrights.

But for Hu, who has a background in science, it was a natural fit.

"You work on cutting-edge technological issues, and you have to understand the underlying technology in order to make your argument in court," said Hu, whose clients have included such marquee names as Haier Group, Elan Microelectronics, Richtek Technology, and Optoma Technology.

Hu, a native of Taiwan, has an undergraduate degree in physics. He worked for a few years as an engineer before deciding to pursue a long-time interest in the law.

During winter break of his final year, Hu visited Taiwan, the first time since he had left. An introduction to the biggest law firm in the country led to a job offer.

"It was a good opportunity. They wanted someone with a dual background in science and law," said Hu, who worked there for two years before joining an IP law firm in Washington, D.C.

In 2003, Hu moved to Menlo Park, Calif., in Silicon Valley, a hotbed of IP cases and an easier commute to Asia, where he is recognized as an expert on U.S.-based intellectual property. In 2011, the *San Francisco Daily Journal* named Hu, a partner at Alston & Bird, one of the top 75 IP litigators in California.

In 2008, then-School of Law Dean Karen Rothenberg contacted Hu, a regular donor to his alma mater, about something dear to his heart. The School of Law was establishing an IP program, and Hu was quick to respond. His six-figure gift is used for student scholarships and the IP curriculum. He has since added to that gift after meeting Dean Phoebe Haddon, who emphasized the school's ongoing commitment to the IP program.

"I am fortunate to have done well and to give back to the law school that gave me this education," said Hu.

A leading intellectual property lawyer, Yitai Hu '94 has made generous gifts to support the establishment and growth of the School's IP program.



Stanley Rohd and his wife Deborah have provided endowed support for a program that offers students an "awareness of the diverse ethical issues" facing lawyers today.

Stanley B. Rohd

Class of 1966

Since Stanley B. Rohd retired from the practice of law in 2008, he has become an active volunteer at his alma mater. He is a member of the Alumni Board, mentors a first-year student annually, coaches the school's trial competition teams, has lectured on law office management and economics in a course on that subject, and spends two days a week in the Clinical Law Program.

Rohd participates in JustAdvice®, part of the Clinical Law Program, where he oversees students who meet with clients of modest means and provide free legal advice.

Problems range from expunction of a criminal record to the threat of eviction, from perceived harassment to a disputed security deposit refund. "The program gives me a relationship with the students, provides a public service, and contributes to the clinical experience of the students," he said.

No such program existed when Rohd attended the School of Law. A Baltimore native and University of Maryland, College Park



graduate, Rohd was selected as one of the editors of the *Maryland Law Review* in his final year.

After graduation, he did a year's clerkship for a United States District Court judge in Maryland before embarking on his career as a civil litigator.

Rohd has worked as a partner in local firms, a solo practitioner and of counsel to a law firm. His cases included a Constitutional challenge to a state law prohibiting oil companies from owning

and operating retail outlets that ultimately went to the U.S. Supreme Court and another involving trade secrets and non-compete covenants.

"Civil litigation exposes you to many different areas," said Rohd.

In 2010, Rohd and his wife Deborah gifted a percentage of their estate to the School of Law.

"It was my idea. Nobody solicited it," said Rohd, whose gift, earmarked for the Clinical Law Program, serves a dual purpose.

The gift creates endowed support for the Clinical Law Program that offers students "real world experiences" and an "awareness of the diverse ethical issues" facing lawyers today, he said. The gift also recognizes the significant role the school played in his career. Said Rohd, "I feel that I owe a great deal to the school."