

Message from the Board of Visitors Chair

BIG IDEAS. We all have them, but most of us don't ever get the chance to act on them. This past year, the law school's Board of Visitors undertook the task of developing and acting upon our "big ideas" to help the law school with its future growth.

Our "big ideas" revolve around several themes, among them—students, faculty, reputation building, and fundraising.

Students: We as a Board know that students need mentors. We have acted as mentors for students who need guidance, networking tips, and support during their legal education. Students need the skills necessary to hit the ground running. They need internships, externships, and other placement opportunities. We are working with leaders in law firms, in business, in the courts, in the government, and beyond to broaden the job opportunities available to our students.

Faculty: We want to assist in recruiting and retaining the best faculty. We, as a Board, are working to ensure we can provide faculty with the resources needed to succeed in the classroom and in their scholarly work. We are volunteering our time to work with faculty members to act as guest lecturers and panelists, and provide real-world perspective and support in the classroom. We are working to position our faculty on a national stage, as recognized experts in a wide range of subject areas.

Reputation Building: Many of the law school's programs are recognized in the top 10 nationally. We, as a Board, are working to promote this to prospective students. Our law school has one of the oldest and most successful clinical programs in the country, and we are also promoting this to prospective students as well as to employers who are interested in hiring students with experiential training. We are working to ensure our law school continues on its upward trajectory and remains in the top tier of law schools in the country.

Fundraising: The law school has identified its top priorities, among them, scholarships, faculty and programmatic support, and discretionary funding.



Christine Edwards '83

The law school must raise \$15 million as part of the *Carey Challenge*. Individual Board members have stepped forward with new gift commitments to further important initiatives, and have asked others to consider the law school among their top philanthropic priorities.

We invite you to help the Board as we continue to act upon our "big ideas." If you can be a mentor or provide job placement assistance, let us know. If you can lecture in a class or work with our students in the clinic, let us know. If you can engage our faculty as presenters and media spokespeople, let us know. And if you can provide financial support to bolster the law school's important priorities, let us know.

It has been a productive year for the Board of Visitors, and we look forward to a successful future.

Christine A. Edwards '83
Chair, UM Carey Law Board of Visitors
Partner, Winston & Strawn LLC

To learn more about the Board of Visitors' "big ideas" and to get involved, please contact:

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