

# Philanthropy Spotlight:

## Five Questions for Jim Archibald '75

Jim Archibald '75 has demonstrated leadership in support of UMDLaw in a variety of ways. A Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member of the American Law Institute who is Of Counsel in the Washington and Baltimore offices of Venable LLP, Archibald is a longtime member of the Alumni Board. His offer to match each gift made to the Class of 2010 Gift Fund helped inspire a record 108 members of the class to contribute.

### Q. HOW DO YOU DEFINE PHILANTHROPY AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU?

**A.** The 18th-century Irish statesman and orator Edmund Burke said, “Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.” That spoke to why I wanted to get involved with the Class Gift. The bulk of people who gave couldn’t give a lot—they’re facing student loan debt and just getting started in their careers—but they wanted to do all they could. It was important to me to support them.

### Q. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU TO GIVE TO MARYLAND LAW?

**A.** As a practicing lawyer, I think a very strong UMDLaw School can have a significant positive impact on the state. The more talented people that can be attracted to or retained in Maryland, the stronger leadership that can be created by the School, the better place our state will be. But it’s also important to me for personal reasons. As a graduate, I’m proud of all our School has accomplished. And as the father of a 2010 graduate—my son, John—I have seen firsthand what an outstanding education Maryland Law continues to provide.



### Q. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT TO BE?

**A.** I had two specific goals in supporting the Class Gift. One was to help engender a culture of giving in our newest alumni right from the beginning of their careers. If they continue to support the School of Law as they achieve professional success, helping establish a philanthropic mindset will have a considerable impact over time. My other goal was to provide some significant, concrete support for an area of specific need with the Law School. So I was delighted to see the students selected computer and technology resources for the Clinical Law Program to be the recipient of their gift.

### Q. WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE ELSE THAT MIGHT INSPIRE THEM TO SUPPORT MARYLAND LAW?

**A.** That’s a difficult question, as choosing where to direct your philanthropy is a personal decision. But I found the words of eBay’s first President—Jeff Skoll, who has since established a charitable foundation—captured my feelings well. He said, “Philanthropy is all about making a positive difference in the world by devoting your resources and your time to causes you believe in. In my case, I like to support causes where ‘a lot of good comes from a little bit of good,’ or, in other words, where the positive social returns vastly exceed the amount of time and money invested.” I feel that my support of UMDLaw achieves that goal.

### Q. WHAT ARE OTHER MEANINGFUL WAYS, OTHER THAN MONETARILY, THAT YOU HAVE SUPPORTED MARYLAND LAW?

**A.** Going on the students’ Spring Break trip two years ago to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast has been one of the highlights of my interaction with the Law School. When you spend 10 or 11 days traveling and working with a group of people, you really get to know them and become friends. And I’ve maintained those friendships as we’ve continued to work on the 12 cases we brought back from the trip to see through. Many students helped me on various cases, and one of the last ones just concluded a couple of weeks ago. Joey Chen had gone down to the Gulf Coast as a 1L and has now graduated; he worked with me on that from beginning to end, and it was very rewarding.