
By Teresa K. LaMaster, '95
Associate Dean for Institutional Advancement

Who should pay for one of the country’s best public law schools?


The answer, clearly, is all of the above.

The University of Maryland School of Law is one of the nation’s oldest public law schools. For decades and decades, tuition was affordable for virtually all Maryland residents who were admitted and state support met most of the law school’s operating needs.

In recent years, particularly during the last decade, the sources of revenue for the School of Law have changed dramatically. State support now makes up less than 20 percent of the law school’s total revenue. Tuition and fees make up more than 60 percent. Filling that sizable gap is private philanthropy – support from alumni, friends, corporations and major foundations who are investing in all that we do.

Their support is increasing dramatically. Gifts to the law school last year exceeded $7 million. And, over the last five years, our endowment has nearly doubled, providing roughly $2.5 million in resources annually, much of it to support student scholarships and faculty research.
I state support for FY2007 Operations.

Other University Funds

Competition for philanthropic dollars is substantial and intensifying. In 2007, total charitable giving topped $306 billion nationally, an increase of only 1.0% over the prior year when adjusted for inflation. The number of registered charities continues to grow, to over 1.13 million in 2007, an increase of 6% over the year prior.

With so much competition among so many worthy causes, professional graduate education has a special challenge in demonstrating its need for private philanthropic support. After all, the students we prepare for successful careers are going to be the beneficiaries of their degrees, as they get their licenses and reap the rewards of what they paid for through tuition.

Surely, tuition is an important element of supporting the cost of legal education. And students continue to bear an increasing load, with in-state tuition climbing beyond $20,000 annually, and out-of-state tuition surpassing $30,000. Yet, despite this financial burden, our current students make philanthropic gifts to the law school as well. Last year, more than 140 students gave more than $70,000 in gifts and pledges to the school (see p. 47). What made them want to do that?

Our graduates and friends are rightly proud of Maryland Law's increasing gains in national reputation and prominence. Alumni support has been transformative. When the School of Law undertook its last capital campaign, it did not place among the nation's top tier law schools in the U.S. News rankings. Following the successful completion of that $10 million effort five years ago, Maryland ranking has increased more than a dozen places and is now one of the top public law schools nationwide.

But if we are to sustain this momentum, private philanthropy is essential. State support will not grow in the foreseeable future. We are reaching the limits of what is possible through further increases in tuition. Your investment transcends the walls of the law school, and lasts long after today's students graduate and pass the bar. Your gifts help make Maryland one of the leading law schools in the country, touching the lives of our students and the community in ways that will make an impact for years to come.

First, they recognize that the law school is not a lawyer factory. More than any time in its history, Maryland Law is engaged in important, life-changing work for law and society — through the Clinic that provides more than 110,000 hours of free legal services to the citizens of Maryland, by faculty experts engaging in important research and working for change with the governments and civic organizations here and abroad. Ironically, at a time when the School of Law has never been more committed to and engaged in its public mission, the budget of the law school is made up of a smaller percentage of public funds.

Our students also recognize the law school's role in producing civic leaders — including judges, government officials, and advocates for the public interest. The increasing cost of tuition threatens to make law school unaffordable for many highly qualified students. And for those who can attend, the resulting student loan debt burden can put the dream of a public interest or government service career out of reach.

Support for the School of Law helps ensure that the most promising students can attend, regardless of need.

Making an Impact
CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

Support for Faculty and Programs $20 million
Support for Students and Scholarships $20 million
Dean's Discretionary Fund $10 million
As the Making an Impact Campaign concludes its first full year, the effort has surpassed its annual goal by securing more than $7 million in new commitments during 2007-2008. The campaign, which marked the launch of its public phase in November 2007, has generated over $27 million in support of the law school to date and remains on target to attain its overall goal of $50 million by 2012.

“Strong leadership support from some of the law school’s most generous benefactors has been vital to the campaign’s early success,” said Associate Dean of Institutional Advancement Teresa K. LaMaster ’95. “These individuals have demonstrated a commitment to the law school’s mission that will inspire others to invest.”

Students Give Back to the School of Law by Creating Class Gift and Scholarship Funds

School of Law students have demonstrated remarkable generosity this year, with more than 130 students participating in a pair of fundraising efforts that have combined to raise almost $70,000. Inspired alumni have offered to match the students’ gifts and pledges, resulting in almost $150,000 of support to the law school, and the establishment of two endowments.

The Leadership Scholars Legacy Project began earlier this year when three of the law school’s current Leadership Scholars set out to establish an endowment that will lead to funding additional Leadership Scholar awards. Since its inception four years ago, the Leadership Scholars Program has made it possible for Maryland Law to recruit and support more than 150 highly talented students.

“We wanted to find a meaningful way to thank the many alumni and friends that give generously each year in support of student scholarships,” said founder Marcus Wang ’08, who founded the project with his fellow Samuel and Anne Hopkins Scholarship recipients, Roberto Vela ’09 and Alexis Slater ’10.

To date, 69 students have made gifts and pledges in excess of $34,000. Making an impact campaign co-chair Henry Hopkins ’68 has generously offered to match the total raised by the students. Mr. Hopkins, along with his brothers Samuel, Robert ’85, and Frederick ’92, established the Hopkins Scholarship in honor of their parents.

In the other student initiative, more than 70 members of the Class of 2008 have combined to give and pledge $33,000 to the law school.
The *Making an Impact* campaign will enable the School of Law to expand its efforts to improve law and society through teaching, scholarship, and public service. The School of Law expresses its deepest appreciation to the generous supporters whose gifts of $25,000 and above, as of July 10, have ensured the campaign's successful launch.

### Making an Impact Campaign Major Donors

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