

An Investment in Legal Education

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. has set a new precedent at the School of Law. The New York-based securities firm has paved a new road to the future; it is the first company to establish a fully funded scholarship in School history. Appropriately named after the first female general counsel of the firm, the Christine A. Edwards Scholarship has been created for future students at the law school. Edwards '83, currently employed by Chicago's ABN-AMRO, the eighth largest universal bank in the world, served Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. for 25 years—most recently as executive vice president, chief legal officer and secretary.

The fund has been established as an annual scholarship and is based on four criteria: good academic standing, financial need, overcoming obstacles

and an interest in banking, securities or commercial law.

To say that Edwards is thrilled about the scholarship is an understatement. She is pleased that Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. is recognizing her commitment to the company and for her lengthy tenure. More importantly, however, is the fact that the firm's proactive approach and dedication to higher learning should serve as a wake-up call to other corporations in all industries. As a member of the law school's Board of Visitors, Edwards hopes that this gift will convince other alumni to encourage their employers to make similar commitments to the School of Law.

Why was the University chosen by the Big Apple corporation? Edwards says it is largely due to the fact that the University is currently exhibiting enormous growth in three crucial areas of law—health-care law, environmental law,

and business law. Edwards commends the law school for focusing heavily on these very important sectors of the legal world.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. is no stranger to gift giving at the University level. The Maryland law school is just the latest in a prestigious line-up that includes Ivy League schools such as Harvard, Yale and Princeton. To be placed among such elite company is a tribute to the high standards displayed by the faculty and students of the University. Edwards attributes this \$250,000 gift to the incredible momentum that the law school is currently experiencing. She states quite simply, "Exciting things are happening at the University of Maryland." The new scholarship is just the latest windfall for the University, following hot on the heels of a highly successful fund-raising campaign to erect a new building for the law school.

Not surprisingly, during her tenure at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., Edwards also was responsible for the firm's charitable giving programs, which included educational gifts. It is only fitting that the Christine A. Edwards Scholarship have the name-sake of an individual committed to excellence in professional education.



PHOTO BY ROBERT GLICK

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