ON APRIL 25, 2011, faculty, staff, and students were greeted by a balloon arch, bright buttons, and bunting as they entered the atrium of the School of Law. As the morning became afternoon, leaders from the Maryland legislature, bench, and bar joined members of the School of Law community for a very special announcement: a $30 million gift from the W. P. Carey Foundation.

“This gift is especially meaningful because it profoundly links the past and the future of this institution,” said Dean Phoebe A. Haddon during her remarks to a standing-room-only crowd on all levels the atrium. “At the inaugural event of my deanship, I called for a recommitment to law as a public calling, regardless of one’s chosen career path. These values are part of our history and they now carry us forward.”

Joining Dean Haddon for remarks at the podium was University System of Maryland (USM) Chancellor William “Brit” Kirwan, UM President Jay A. Perman, Governor Martin O’Malley ’88, Baltimore City Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake ’95, Wm. Polk Carey, and Francis J. Carey of the W. P. Carey Foundation. Members of the Carey Foundation Board of Directors, as well as the USM Board of Regents, the UM Carey Law Board of Visitors and the Alumni Board, were among the crowd.

The gift is being made in honor of Wm. Polk Carey’s grandfather, Francis King Carey, who was a graduate of the School of Law Class of 1880. Francis King Carey was a committed public servant who staunchly believed it was his duty to work for the betterment of all. Like many lawyers graduating from the School of Law today, Francis King Carey operated successfully in both the business and legal communities, building bridges between the two in some of Baltimore’s most challenging and interesting times.

In recognition of the Carey Foundation’s support, the School of Law will be renamed the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. “I want all the faculty and students to know that he’s up there watching you,” said Wm. Polk Carey of his grandfather. “And he will be there with his support that you need to make this the greatest law school in the world.”

To learn more about the intriguing life of Francis King Carey, we invite you to read the story that follows, “Building Bridges: A Forward-Looking Career in Law and Commerce.”

Wm. Polk Carey waves to the attendees in the atrium.

Students look at a copy of the commencement program from 1880, the year Francis King Carey graduated.
Baltimore City Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake ’95 faculty, staff, students, and guests got involved in the festivities by donning buttons with the “Carey Forward” logo.

Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley ’88 presents Wm. Polk Carey with a state proclamation.

Former U.S. Senator Joe Tydings ’53 offers a toast after the ceremony.

Dean Phoebe A. Haddon

Francis J. Carey addresses the standing-room-only crowd.