



THE WISCONSIN LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

1980 - 81
Alumni Fund Drive

OUR \$1 MILLION YEAR

Since the 1969-70 Law Alumni Fund Drive, a total of more than \$920,000 has been contributed to our Law School by its alumni. An average year for the 1980-81 Fund Drive will put us over the \$1 million mark.

Average is a quality we do not want attached to this Law School. Help us celebrate the first million dollars in alumni support. Help us with a record year and a good start on the second!

DEAN ORRIN L. HELSTAD ('50) COMMENTS ON THE ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Once again, we are gearing up for our annual fund drive. Deans of publicly supported law schools are fond of pointing out that while the basic support is provided by public funds, the "margin of excellence" must come mainly from financial support provided by alumni. Let me try to illustrate some of the ways in which I believe alumni support can help maintain the margin of excellence at Wisconsin.

Faculty development. To some extent alumni support already has helped in faculty development in the sense that alumni funds have been used to pay some of our faculty recruitment expenses. However, much more could be done. A few public law schools have developed sizeable funds through their alumni associations which provide a sum of money from which faculty members can draw for such important incidental expenses as book purchases, expense of travel to professional meetings, extra research and secretarial support, and the like.

This type of support is essentially what the University of Wisconsin Foundation has started to provide through the establishment of "Bascom professorships" in the name of the donor. These professorships are endowed by sums ranging from \$40,000 to \$100,000 and provide through income from the endowment a sum each year which the recipients of the professorships can draw upon for the type of incidental expenditures I have indicated.

As the gap between what top law school graduates can earn in practice compared with what they can earn as law teachers becomes greater and greater, it is important to provide these extra incentives to attract top quality people into teaching and to attract them to and retain them at this Law School.

Endowments for named professorships, such as the Bascom professorships, of course involve quite large sums of money and are most likely to be established through bequests. I certainly encourage interested individuals to work with the University of Wisconsin Foundation to set up Bascom professorships for the benefit of the Law School. For the immediate future, however, we may need to try to fund some such professorships through current gifts rather than endowments.

Research development. I mentioned in my introductory comments to this issue of the Gargoyle the use of the alumni funds to enable researchers to prepare proposals which attract outside funding. Another way in which alumni support can be helpful in this area is through providing matching funds for some outside grants. For example, we currently have a sizeable grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a research program in legal history, an area in which this Law School as well as U.W. Madison in general has great strength. In addition to the basic grant, the NEH will match dollar for dollar, up to a certain point, extra funds which we raise on our own for the project.

Support of special law school programs. I am thinking here of programs like trial advocacy, general practice and client counseling. These are practice oriented courses which we believe constitute a very important segment of our total curriculum, but because they are taught for the most part by practitioners who teach on a part-time and short-term basis, they may be vulnerable if we face a difficult budget crunch in a particular year. It is always easier to refrain from hiring part-time help for a particular semester or year than to lay off permanent staff. What we need, I believe, is a reserve fund we could draw upon in an emergency. Because of the nature of state budgeting, such a fund can be created only with alumni support.

Student financial aid. This item has long held high priority in our alumni fund raising. The cause

has been an appealing one over the years. During depression days, Dean Garrison could point out, no doubt accurately, that many law students were going hungry from time to time for lack of funds. During the late fifties and early sixties, it was thought important that we obtain more scholarship funds so as to enable us to compete successfully with other law schools for good students. That was a time when good students were hard to come by, a problem we do not face today, although it may be with us again some day.

In view of this history, it was with considerable thought and hesitation that I came to the conclusion that this item no longer deserves the almost exclusive claim to alumni funds which it has had in the past. The ready availability of loan funds compared with past years is one reason for my conclusion. Another is the fact that costs of education have become so high that it is unrealistic to think that alumni funds can supply more than a small fraction of the funding in any event. This does not mean that I view financial aid for students as unimportant, and we welcome anyone who wishes to give for this purpose. Endowed memorial funds for scholarship purposes seem to me to be particularly appropriate. We have a number of these already, and we certainly could use more.

Speakers programs. We presently have two rather small funds, the incomes from which are to be used to bring distinguished speakers to the Law School. The largest (about \$15,000) is a fund in memory of former Dean Oliver S. Rundell. The other is a fund in memory of Judge August C. Backus to be used for the purpose of bringing to the Law School lecturers in the area of criminal law or criminal justice administration. We would welcome contributions to either fund or to a new fund.

Special teaching and research facilities. Innovations in teaching and in equipment for teaching and research always seem to put a strain on the budget, and I believe these frontiers in education are especially in need of help from

outside funds. Eventually, if they prove themselves, they generally can be built into the budget. At the present we have advances in technology such as the use of computers for teaching and research and the use of video equipment in teaching. We are starting to build a small library of videotapes for instructional use, but these are very expensive acquisitions. Similarly, we probably could do more in the way of computer-assisted teaching if we had the money to buy the programs which are available. I believe the use of video equipment in teaching is of sufficient value so that it would be good if we could equip at least one or two classrooms. It would ease the strain on use of the courtroom where our present video equipment is located.

Library improvements. Our Law Library has been hard hit by inflation in recent years, not to mention the special budget cut we in-

curred this year because of the state revenue shortfall. We currently have a memorial gift which probably will be used to support our loose-leaf services in the employment security area. This is an example of the kind of gift which would be very helpful to us in maintaining a high quality library.

Building improvement. It has long been customary among private schools to ask for funds to equip a room or to enhance physical facilities in other ways. Wall plaques often are put up to show that a particular donor or donors are responsible for supplying the funds which were used to furnish a particular room. I think the time has come to do some of this in publicly supported schools as well. It may be true that high quality teaching can be done in a sparsely furnished room, but the quality of surroundings does seem to be of

some importance, perhaps because it tends to instill pride in the school. Last year, for example, funds from a donor who wished to remain anonymous were used to refurbish a seminar room. What many faculty had likened to a huge cell block was transformed, through some carpeting, wall covering and new furniture, into a pleasant place to teach and learn.

These are some of the things which help provide that margin of excellence, and for which we need your help. What can we offer in return? Perhaps not a great deal in the way of tangible benefits. Rather, I would hope that the sense of pride you feel in having graduated from a fine Law School, and the knowledge that you are helping it improve the quality of tomorrow's lawyers, would be sufficient reward for your contributions. We at the Law School will be grateful for your help.

YOUR GIFT -- MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER!

As the current school year opened, the Law School, as well as the rest of the University and all the other agencies, faced an unanticipated budget problem. Faced with declining tax revenues, the State has ordered an across-the-board 4.4% budget reduction. As we struggle to meet increasing costs with lower state-support, your Law School must look for even more support from its alumni.

Unrestricted alumni contributions will not only continue to assist today's students with financial aid, but also to fill in where state money has been subtracted. Some of our special needs and projects are explained in the Dean's message.