Louis-Dreyfus '57 pledges $1 million toWrongful Convictions Clinic

The Wrongful Convictions Clinic has received a $1 million commitment from William Louis-Dreyfus '57, T.'55 to continue its work on behalf of North Carolina prisoners with claims of actual innocence. The gift will fund a variety of operational needs, including research and travel to investigate cases, retaining of expert witnesses, DNA testing, and the development of legal strategies and filings.

Louis-Dreyfus is a noted philanthropist, whose extensive contributions to the Law School include an endowed scholarship in his name and support of the John Hope Franklin Chair in American Legal History. He is the former CEO of the Louis Dreyfus Group, a French conglomerate founded by his great-grandfather in 1851.

“The work of the Wrongful Convictions Clinic is so important to the goal of a justice system that functions properly and fairly for all. We know that mistakes are made with tragic consequences. Our clinic gives students the opportunity to right some of these wrongs and learn important lawyering skills as they do so,” said Dean David F. Levi. “This extraordinary gift from William Louis-Dreyfus helps us provide a first-rate clinic that educates our students, contributes to our understanding of why wrongful convictions occur in the first place, and serves the justice system here in North Carolina.” » (continued on Page 4)
Dear Friends,

The collective generosity of our alumni and friends has launched Duke Law School to new heights of charitable giving during the Duke Forward campaign. With two years to go, we have already raised over $75 million! This fundraising success represents unprecedented support for the Law School’s vision for the future. Gifts made during this campaign have been directly used to fund our faculty, students, and programs.

As we look ahead, we hope to further enhance the academic and experiential opportunities available at Duke Law School. Those opportunities will increase our impact on our region, our country, and the world in very tangible ways.

As we look ahead, we hope to further enhance the academic and experiential opportunities available at Duke Law School.” — Jeff Coates

The ways in which donor contributions have already impacted the Law School during Duke Forward include:

- establishing 60 new scholarship and fellowship funds to reduce the cost of a legal education for our current and future students;
- financing eight new faculty positions as well as research funds to assist in hiring exceptional new faculty, while retaining what is already a world-class cohort of scholars and teachers;
- expanding our signature initiatives with new programs such as the Master of Judicial Studies, the International Human Rights Clinic, and the Civil Justice Clinic; and
- enhancing programs which are already having an extraordinary impact, such as the Program in Public Law and the Environmental Law and Policy Clinic.

As we reach the home stretch of this initiative, we are grateful for everything you have done to help us get here. It would not have been possible without your help and commitment to Duke Law. If you have not yet seized the opportunity to support the Law School at a level which reflects your loyalty and dedication, I look forward to working with you in the final phase of the Duke Forward campaign!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Coates
Associate Dean for Alumni & Development
Campaign totals as of May 4, 2015 —
$75,720,571

84% giving from individuals
16% from corporations/foundations

Campaign funding by general priority:
- Financial Aid: $23 million
- Faculty: $18.7 million
- Academic & Clinical Programs: $13.6 million
- Unrestricted (includes over $12 million to the Annual Fund): $17.2 million
- Other: $3.2 million

Funding by Purpose:
- Endowment: $46.2 million
- Current use restricted: $16.9 million
- Current use unrestricted: $12.6 million

Thank You!
Supporting Clinics

“This extraordinary gift from William Louis-Dreyfus helps us provide a first-rate clinic that educates our students, contributes to our understanding of why wrongful convictions occur in the first place, and serves the justice system here in North Carolina.” — Dean David F. Levi

Wrongful Convictions Clinic

Continued from Page 1

Clinic Co-directors James E. Coleman Jr., the John S. Bradway Professor of the Practice of Law, and Clinical Professor of Law Theresa Newman ’88 said the contribution will play a crucial role in supporting the clinic’s ongoing operations. A $1.25 million start-up grant from Duke University, which was originally slated to fund the clinic for five years, has been stretched for seven, and a federal grant that has supported its work could run out this fall.

“This gift reflects Mr. Louis-Dreyfus’ longtime commitment to both the pursuit of justice and legal education,” said Coleman.

Added Newman: “For us this gift couldn’t have come at a better time. We are very grateful to Mr. Louis-Dreyfus for recognizing our great need and making such a generous donation to Duke Law School.”

The clinic has won exonerations for five individuals since 2010, including, most recently, Michael Alan Parker, an Asheville man who was serving eight life sentences for crimes he did not commit, including child sexual abuse. Wrongful Convictions Clinic students, faculty, and alumni worked on Parker’s case for over three years after being contacted by his attorney, Sean Devereux T ’69. Parker was released from prison on Aug. 26 after 22 years of incarceration.

The clinic previously helped overturn the conviction of LaMonte Armstrong, who had served 17 years in prison for a murder he did not commit. The charges against Armstrong were later dropped, and he received a full pardon of innocence from N.C. Gov. Pat McCrory.

Currently, the clinic has about 20 cases in various stages of development, including three cases being investigated by students in Duke’s Innocence Project. The growth of the caseload has created an enormous demand on the clinic’s staffing and budget, especially as many of the cases are heading back to court because of prosecutors’ reluctance to consider post-conviction claims of innocence.

“We’re becoming more of a litigation clinic than an investigative clinic,” said Coleman. “The more litigation that we do, the more that litigation management and supervision become really important.”

And, for the first time, with the advent of touch DNA, the clinic has begun to employ DNA testing in its cases. Touch DNA, which refers to the skin cells left at a crime scene, may open up new avenues to exoneration for clients, even in the cases that have already been investigated. But the technique is still relatively expensive, creating difficult choices as to when it can be used, Newman said.

“We’re taking a second look at a lot of cases, and now thinking in every case, ‘Can we get a test?’” she said. “We don’t want this to be a financial decision. We would like to test everything that we need to test.”

The clinic also hopes to expand its work with Duke Law’s Center for Criminal Justice and Professional Responsibility to prevent wrongful convictions from happening in the first place. In March, the center presented a symposium on evolving trends in forensic science which attracted about 150 practitioners to the Law School.

“We want to have an ongoing programmatic element that’s aimed at lawyers on the front end of the criminal justice system,” said Lecturing Fellow Jamie T. Lau ’09, who teaches in the clinic and serves as supervising attorney.

“The bottom line is there’s just so much need,” said Newman.

Added Louis-Dreyfus: “There is nothing more important to the health of a democratic society than the proper application of justice.”

Make a gift to the Duke Legal Clinics:

In addition to the Wrongful Convictions Clinic, the Duke Legal Clinics are:

» Appellate Litigation Clinic
» Children’s Law Clinic
» Civil Justice Clinic
» Community Enterprise Clinic
» Environmental Law and Policy Clinic
» Guantanamo Defense Clinic
» Health Justice Clinic
» HIV Policy Clinic
» International Human Rights Clinic
» Start-Up Ventures Clinic

To make a gift: Please contact Associate Dean Jeff Coates at (919) 613-7175 or coates@law.duke.edu.
Ongoing Stanback support fuels impact of Environmental Law and Policy Clinic

Philanthropic support from Duke University alumni Fred and Alice Stanback continues to fuel the expansion of the Environmental Law and Policy Clinic’s client services, educational mission, and public influence. By significantly adding to an earlier leadership gift, the Stanbacks have “exponentially increased” the clinic’s ability to inform environmental policy and legislation in North Carolina and beyond and to train a new generation of environmental leaders and advocates, said Clinical Professor Ryke Longest, who directs the clinic.

Longest and Supervising Attorney Michelle Nowlin JD/MA ’92 oversee the work of two postgraduate Stanback Clinic Fellows as well as a team of students from Duke Law and the Nicholas School of the Environment. Together they provide professional services relating to watershed and wetlands protection, land and energy conservation, air pollution, endangered species protection, climate change, and toxic chemical contamination.

Recent clinic activities made possible by the Stanbacks’ support include, among many others:

- successfully advocating to reduce the use of toxic pesticides linked to critical declines in butterfly, beneficial insects, and marine life in and near the National Key Deer Refuge in Florida;
- drafting ordinances to use local zoning restrictions to limit hydraulic fracturing, or fracking;
- litigating to prevent clear-cutting trees to open sightlines for billboards on state highways on behalf of the nonprofit Scenic NC; and
- representing the Yadkin Riverkeeper in addressing hazardous waste contamination in Badin, N.C., and acting as amicus in a suit between the state and Alcoa disputing ownership of the riverbed.

Many of the clinic’s projects combine economics, law, and environmental science in ways that engage the Law School and Nicholas School, as well as the Pratt School of Engineering, the Fuqua School of Business, the Duke Marine Lab, the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, and the campus-wide Energy Initiative.

Clinic students also have revised the Guide to Environmental Justice and Environmental Protection in North Carolina, which is disseminated free of charge to area nonprofits.

“The Stanbacks’ ongoing support allows the clinic to directly support the grassroots community in North Carolina and enables us to work with an ever-wider range of faculty and students across campus.” —Clinical Professor Ryke Longest

Ongoing Stanback support fuels impact of Environmental Law and Policy Clinic

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Gained professional experience working for an environmental organization through the Stanback Internship Program.

Emily Spiegel ’14, who has an undergraduate degree in science, technology, and international affairs from Georgetown, brought an interest in agricultural development to her work as a clinic student. In her third year, she worked on several food and agriculturally focused client matters, including issues pertaining to plant genetics and intellectual property, and policy relating to farm animal welfare. In January, she returned to the clinic as a Stanback Fellow following a four-month internship with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization’s development law office in Rome. One of two full-time fellows, she is working to expand opportunities for sustainable food production and exploring possible international projects for the clinic.

“There is very little exposure to agricultural development law in doctrinal classes, so for me as a student, the clinic was a really important way to build expertise in a niche field,” Spiegel said. “That experience was tremendously helpful in being able to get the job at FAO, and it informs the work I’m doing now, which has more of an academic focus. My fellowship continues to give me a good grounding in the different areas of law that relate to agriculture and development. I would not have this position without the Stanbacks’ support.” ¶
HIV Policy Clinic attracts significant foundation support

STUDENTS AND FACULTY in the HIV Policy Clinic work on a wide range of issues directly related to the ability of people living with HIV to get access to care and treatment.

For Jerry Fang ’15, who spent two semesters in the clinic (formerly known as the AIDS Policy Clinic), that has meant everything from investigating the way HIV is criminalized in North Carolina and nationally to collecting stories from people living with HIV in the Deep South to bolster advocacy for renewal of the federal Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program that supports essential services not covered by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). He also crafted a white paper that was submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) opposing its policy of directing HIV-prevention funding to only a limited number of large urban areas.

“The HIV prevalence in the South is not located in the bigger cities, but in rural areas and smaller urban areas like Durham,” said Fang, who worked in HIV prevention in Los Angeles prior to attending Duke Law. “The white paper focuses on how the CDC policy is squeezing funding of prevention initiatives in the South and will create greater problems in the future.” He joined Clinical Professor Carolyn McAllaster, who directs the clinic, at a meeting in Atlanta with the CDC’s director of HIV and AIDS prevention to discuss the policy proposals.

“People at the CDC read the report and said they were struck by certain things in it that they had not previously known. That’s very gratifying,” Fang said. “What this clinic work offers that a lot of classroom work can’t, is a direct connection to real-life effects of policy and law.”

The clinic was established at Duke Law in 2010 as an outgrowth — and an advanced curricular offering — of the Health Justice Clinic, which engages students in direct representation of clients facing HIV, AIDS, and cancer. The Health Justice Clinic was previously known as the AIDS/HIV and Cancer Legal Project.

Fang’s work is directly supported by a $200,000 grant to the HIV Policy Clinic from the Ford Foundation, which has recently granted the clinic another $350,000. Other philanthropic organizations have also renewed their support.

The policy clinic is sharing a $100,000 collaborative grant from the Elton John AIDS Foundation with the Harvard Center for Health Law and Policy and the Southern AIDS Coalition to work with partners in nine Southern states to improve access to health coverage, care, and services for people living with HIV. Activities supported by the grant are designed to increase access to meaningful health coverage under the ACA; educate state and federal policymakers about the needs of people living with HIV and the benefits of fully implementing the ACA, including Medicaid expansion; and advocating for the South to receive resources proportional to its share of the HIV epidemic, where transmission and death rates are relatively high.

A $75,000 AIDS United: Southern REACH grant is focused on reducing barriers to HIV care and treatment in North Carolina, funding work on access to care through the AIDS Drug Assistance Program and the ACA marketplace insurance plans, and presenting HIV stigma and confidentiality education for legal and medical administrators. “As part of this work, we analyze the cost, provider networks, and drug formularies of the marketplace insurance plans, and provide guidance to HIV-positive North Carolinians and their providers about enrollment in marketplace insurance,” said McAllaster.

The Deep South region has become the epicenter of the U.S. HIV epidemic, she said. Nine states — Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas — account for nearly 40 percent of national HIV diagnoses despite having only 28 percent of the total U.S. population. The region also has lower survival rates and higher death rates among people diagnosed with HIV.

The latest round of Ford Foundation funding will be used to continue research documenting the high HIV burden in the Deep South, as well as for advocacy supporting a prevention strategy for the region, McAllaster said. The clinic will continue to research the existing prevention and care infrastructure and community characteristics of the HIV epidemic in the Deep South states, and will conduct research to examine the impact of stigma as a driver of the HIV epidemic in the South. Other goals include working to help inform the revision of the White House National HIV/AIDS Strategy and supporting state-based advocacy efforts by creating materials for southern advocates.

“The goal of the HIV Policy Clinic is to focus national attention and resources on the Deep South, where HIV diagnosis rates are highest and more people are living and dying with HIV,” said McAllaster.
“Smith Anderson has provided something that no law school clinic can provide on its own — a close connection to the legal professionals that serve our community’s entrepreneurs.” — Clinic Director Jeff Ward ’09

The mentors

Smith Anderson attorneys contribute guidance, expertise to Start-Up Ventures Clinic students

LAST FALL, JANA KOVICH JD/LLM ’15 uncovered some challenging tax questions in the course of doing a valuation of her client’s enterprise in the Start-Up Ventures Clinic. The client was planning to change its organizational form, and Kovich realized the value of the owner’s equity interest in the company could potentially expose him to an unnecessarily heavy tax burden.

After making sure she understood the parameters of the problem and discussing them with Clinic Director Jeff Ward ’09, Kovich called Geoff Krouse ’97, a partner at Smith Anderson in Raleigh. Krouse is one of Kovich’s clinic mentors, thanks to an ongoing partnership between his firm and the clinic, and she knew he would help her gain greater insight into the matter. In fact, Krouse put her in touch with a tax specialist at Smith Anderson who gave her “a very thoughtful answer,” and also offered subsequent guidance as she worked through alternative solutions until the problem was satisfactorily resolved.

“Geoff and the Smith Anderson attorneys were so useful in our quest to get to the right deal and in making sure we were informed,” said Kovich, adding that they offered general advice in the absence of a direct relationship with her client. “They helped me understand how different scenarios can work. That advice was incredibly useful as we tried to figure out what would work best for the client.”

At the start of each semester, Ward and his students have a working lunch at Smith Anderson’s Raleigh office. Each student is matched with one partner and one associate who will serve as mentors for the semester. Students can call on their mentors for advice and input on challenging legal questions, as Kovich did, or reach out for more general insight on forging a career in the entrepreneurial sphere. Kovich, who will join Latham & Watkins in Chicago following her Duke Law graduation, said getting to know Krouse and associate Jessica West T’05 allowed her to start building her professional network.

“Now that I have a better idea of where my career is taking me and where my practice interests are, I think having these connections will be helpful should I want to refer someone to an attorney in the Triangle or even to move back someday,” said Kovich, who had lunch with her mentors last fall. “And it was enlightening to hear from them what their daily practice is like.”

Since Krouse and Smith Anderson associate Peter Bosman helped forge the relationship between their firm and the clinic in 2013, dozens of their colleagues have stepped up to volunteer their time and expertise. “Smith Anderson has provided something that no law school clinic can provide on its own — a close connection to the legal professionals that serve our community’s entrepreneurs,” said Ward, noting that they have even joined students for such off-campus events as the students’ presentations to local tech entrepreneurs at Durham’s American Underground and Duke’s Innovation & Entrepreneurship Academy.

“It’s been fun for us,” Krouse said of his firm’s connection with the clinic. “We’re really just sharing what we do on a daily basis.” Krouse, whose practice includes mergers and acquisitions, private equity, and securities law, said students often reach out to their mentors in search of answers that aren’t easily found through library research, but that practitioners in the firm’s specialty practice areas have encoun-
CHANTALLE CARLES ’16 was working for The Duke Endowment in Charlotte, N.C., when she “had the good fortune” to attend a presentation by Dean David F. Levi to the Endowment’s Board of Trustees. She was struck, she told 150 Duke law scholarship and fellowship recipients and benefactors on Feb. 28, by his decision to focus on student activities and achievements in his remarks.

“That told me that Duke is a place where the students come first and where every component of the law school is designed to help each student achieve his or her definition of success,” she said. A former member of the Teach for America corps, Carles said Levi’s remarks made her instantly “fall in love” with Duke Law.

But without the generosity of the donors to the R. C. Kelly Law and the Douglas A. Poe Mordecai Scholarships, Duke Law would have been financially out of reach for her. “I would not have had the privilege of being a student of this wonderful place,” she said. “But because of your generosity, I am one step closer to doing work that matters in a profession that I love.”

Carles, who is pursuing a master’s degree in English along with her JD, served as the student speaker at the Scholarship and Fellowship Luncheon, which allowed recipients of financial aid to visit with their benefactors and thank them, in person, for their assistance.

The high cost of a legal education is prohibitive for many students, Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs Bill Hoye confirmed in his remarks. The potential for incurring a high level of debt exercises a strong influence on students in selecting a law school, yet being able to recruit top students to the student body “really matters to Duke,” he said. “It helps us to attract top faculty, it elevates the quality of the discourse, it challenges all of our students to excel, and it builds an unsurpassed reputation in the practicing bar.

“I am very proud of our students here at Duke Law School and I am deeply grateful to each of you who make scholarships available to them,” said Hoye.

Prentiss and Gail Feagles, 1976 graduates who met on their first day on campus, both financed their legal studies through loans and grants, they told the luncheon attendees. “Were it not for that, neither of us would have been able to attend Duke,” said Gail, a member of the Board of Visitors and a former partner at Hazel & Thomas in Falls Church, Va., where she headed the real estate practice and served on the management committee. She is now actively engaged in numerous charitable endeavors and leading the Board of Visitors of the Children’s National Medical Center.

Both of them thrived at Duke, said Prentiss, a partner and member of the tax practice group at Hogan Lovells US in...
Washington, D.C., where he also serves as chief financial officer for the international firm. “The support that we got from the Law School allowed us to move forward and walk out without a huge amount of debt,” he said, adding that it paved the way for the couple’s professional achievements.

“Our Duke education provided valuable training, not only in how to practice law, but in how to solve problems and to be effective leaders in the many areas in which we have both functioned, both in our careers and as volunteers,” said Gail.

The Feagles, whose daughter, Amy, is a 2013 graduate, have long supported the Duke Law Annual Fund and renovation projects. They decided to join Duke’s university-wide financial aid initiative in 2006 “to thank Duke for what it had done for us,” Gail said. “We wanted the privilege of changing the lives of even just a few Duke Law students, so that they can pursue their dreams and make a difference in a way that might not be possible for them if they have a great deal of indebtedness after graduation from law school. Perhaps someday, one or more of our scholarship recipients will be in a position and will feel inspired to make that same difference for those who come along behind them at Duke Law.”

That sentiment exemplifies “the handshake across generations,” said Dean Levi.

“This luncheon gives us the opportunity to honor the dedication of previous generations of Duke Law graduates,” he said. “They wanted to do something that would be significant and would support our future — our future as a law school and our future students. And they did so in the hope that those students would also one day pay it forward.”

Levi reported that over his tenure as dean the Law School has more than doubled the amount of scholarship support it offers to students, from $5 million to almost $12 million annually. “I couldn’t be prouder of anything that we’ve been able to do in the past few years than this increase in scholarships,” he said.

In closing her remarks, Carles, who serves on the editorial board of Law and Contemporary Problems, on the Moot Court and Mock Trial Boards (and was a Dean’s Cup finalist), and as an Innocence Project case manager and a research assistant for Professor Marin Levy, thanked scholarship and fellowship donors for having “unlocked the door for my classmates and me.”

“It is because of all of you that my peers and I have the amazing opportunity to learn the practice of law in a place that encourages us to think creatively, to be enthusiastic, and to transform whatever space we find ourselves in,” she said.

“Your kindness and generosity made Duke Law not only a choice we wanted to make but a choice we could make.” ¶
Robert Davies ’61: “You try to help the people coming behind you”

By his own estimate, Bob Davies is currently on his fourth career. Now a principal of a closely held group that owns assisted-living facilities around the country, Davies sums up more than 50 years in law and business simply: “I’ve had a wonderful career and a wonderful life.”

Davies, who attended DePauw University and Duke Law School on full scholarships, is equally succinct about what he expects from recipients of the Robert N. Davies Scholarship at Duke Law: “The only thing I ask is that when your turn comes, you try to help the people coming behind you. They will need your help.”

Davies’ first career was as a tax, securities, and transactional specialist at Baker & Daniels, the Indianapolis firm he joined following his Duke Law graduation, making partner in 1966. In 1984, he embarked on his second career as co-founder of a boutique firm, Davies & Leagre, where he continued his banking and securities practice.

During his years in practice, Davies was active in community service, continuing a family tradition. He served as legislative counsel to the Indiana governor, chairman of the Indiana Board of Corrections, and as a presidential appointee to the Committee on State and Local Government of the United States Cost of Living Council.

Davies left his law firm after three years to oversee the worldwide legal and financial needs of a private conglomerate. He jokingly refers to the work as involving “a little cloak and dagger.” He once executed a judgment, obtained in Paris, against the government of Saddam Hussein for liquidated damages regarding the building of a brass-refining plant in Iraq. First, though, he had to find out where the Iraqi assets were located.

“We had information as to where things were, so we seized assets all over Europe and I went about selling them,” he recalled, noting the danger posed by Iraqi operatives opposed to the seizures. “Only my wife and my secretary knew where I was, and I never stayed in the same hotels. It was fun.”

In 1993, Davies’ son-in-law, a fund manager involved in financing hospitals and senior care facilities, introduced him to assisted living as an emerging model of elder care. It was a niche bound to grow, his son-in-law explained, as the population aged and nursing homes and hospitals were becoming crowded. The two formed a partnership, joined by a third individual with deep experience in the health care field. The group has owned 64 facilities across the country and today owns 13 facilities, mostly in the Eastern U.S. Davies, who now lives in Sarasota, Fla., serves as general counsel, among other roles.

During a recent visit to Duke Law following a tour of three of the company’s North Carolina locations, Davies expressed pride in the quality of comfort and care offered to residents, including those with severely impaired cognitive functions.

“When I shave in the morning, I like to look in the mirror and think I’m doing something worthwhile. Few people voluntarily move into assisted living, but it’s nice to know I’m making the situation a bit better,” he said.

A native of Gary, Ind., Davies was recruited to Duke Law by Dean Elvin R. Latty, whom he called “one heck of a salesman.” Latty trumped full-tuition scholarship offers from two very prestigious law schools with his ability to secure a position for Davies’ wife as an art teacher with the Durham Public Schools. Davies was at the top of his class of “really amazing people” all three years and stayed in touch with many afterwards.

Grateful for the scholarship assistance he received as a student, Davies funds a scholarship for art students at DePauw, where his late first wife also had studied, and has funded a scholarship at Duke Law since 2007. An observation from his DePauw fraternity brother, 1999 Nobel laureate Ferid Murad, inspired Davies to focus his support on scholarships.

“Ferid said that if he had needed to borrow money to go to college he could never have been awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine because he could never have worked in a setting where he was doing research for low pay,” Davies said. “His scholarships gave him freedom. That really hit home for me.”

The total gifts and pledges to the Davies scholarship fund now exceed $1.8 million, which includes matching dollars from the Stanley & Elizabeth Star Financial Aid Challenge Program. The Robert N. Davies Scholarship is given annually to a student with top academic credentials who also demonstrates financial need. It is currently held by Olivia Cole ’17, who said Davies’ support is helping her to realize her dream of forging a career in public service.

“I am immensely thankful for the generosity of donors like Mr. Davies,” she said. “Having had the opportunity to meet him, I can attest that the benefits students receive from making connections with alumni and donors go far beyond simple financial aid. Mr. Davies has been incredibly generous, not only through his donations to past and future Duke Law students like me, but also by passing on his knowledge, experiences, and advice.

“I will never forget this kindness, and hope to have the resources and opportunity to make a similar impact as a future alumnus.”
Karl '83 and Fay Leo endow new faculty chair in business law and entrepreneurship

Karl Leo ’83 didn’t plan on becoming a business lawyer when he graduated from Duke Law. But four years later, when he hung out his shingle after returning home to Huntsville, Ala., one of the first calls he got was from a small family-owned roofing supply company he had represented in litigation matters that now needed an outside general counsel.

“I didn’t know what that was,” he said. “I thought of myself as a civil litigator. Being a business lawyer — focusing on transactions — wasn’t something that I thought deeply about.”

Nearly three decades later, Leo has innumerable transactions under his belt as that fledgling company, ABC Supply Co., Inc., has become America’s largest wholesale distributor of roofing, siding, windows, and gutters, and Leo its vice president and chief legal officer.

“I give a lot of credit to Duke Law for building the foundation for me to be able — three or four years out of law school — to take on the things that I did,” he says. “I had a confidence level, and I think Duke was a big part of that.”

Last fall, Karl and his wife, Fay, showed their gratitude with a $1.25 million gift to the Law School to endow a new faculty chair in business law and entrepreneurship.

“A good number of graduates will end up practicing business and transactional law, as I did,” said Leo, a member of the Duke Law Board of Visitors. “That’s an area in which the Law School needs to be as deep as it possibly can be.”

“We are extraordinarily grateful to Karl and Fay Leo for their generosity and commitment to Duke Law,” said Dean David F. Levi. “Their gift will deepen what is already one of our strongest fields of teaching and scholarship, and one that is of vital importance to our students and the profession.”

The gift is one of several significant recent efforts related to entrepreneurship at the Law School, including the growth of the Law and Entrepreneurship degree programs, the expansion of the Start-Up Ventures Clinic, and the establishment of the Adrian E. and Anne L. Dollard Scholarship for students pursuing a JD and LLM in law and entrepreneurship, a dual JD/MBA, or the LLM in law and entrepreneurship (LLMLE). It is the fifth new professorship to be created with matching funds from the Stanley and Elizabeth Star Professorship Matching Program.

Leo said he would not have come to Duke had it not been for the generous financial aid provided by previous donors.

A graduate of the University of the Redlands in California, Leo didn’t seriously consider Duke until an impromptu trip to campus after visiting another school. Two students took him to their contracts class and then out to lunch.

“It was as if a red carpet was rolled out to Towerview Drive,” he said.

Leo told then-dean of admissions Charlie Howell that he was impressed by Duke’s close-knit community, but that he didn’t think he could afford it. She said they would work something out.

“I think the letter beat me home,” he said of the offer of a full-tuition scholarship from the Parkinson family named for John Parkinson.

At Duke, Leo was an editor of the Duke Law Journal and coached Duke’s undergraduate debate team. He also became close with C. Allen Foster, who taught construction law, and following a clerkship on the Alabama Supreme Court, spent three years at Foster’s Greensboro law firm. But his father’s death during his clerkship year had him pining for home.

In 1987, Leo returned to Huntsville and opened his practice. He soon found himself handling real estate leases and purchases for ABC Supply, representing the company in loan negotiations, working out the details of acquisitions, and managing lawsuits. He has served as ABC’s chief lawyer ever since. Today, ABC has grown to more than 460 locations nationwide and nearly $5 billion in annual sales.

In addition to his role with the company, Leo also serves as an adviser to a host of related companies owned by the same family in industries ranging from real estate and insurance to nuclear medicine. He also founded and runs Leo Law Firm, LLC, an eight-lawyer boutique business law firm in Huntsville.

“When you do the kind of job I do, every day is a new challenge, there’s something new we talk about, something different, and that’s the exciting part of it,” he said.

It has also led Leo to want to help expand the opportunities for students to prepare themselves for corporate and transactional work: “I think the greater endowed the faculty, the greater the course offerings, the greater practical offerings, the better prepared students will be for a career in business law.”
I know a lot of lawyers, but I don’t know many who truly love their law school the way the other alums I know love Duke.” — Lea Courington ’77

Volunteer profile

Lea Courington ’77

LIKE MANY DUKE LAW GRADUATES, Lea Courington ’77 is a devoted fan of the men’s basketball team. But on April 6, when the Blue Devils were battling Wisconsin for the NCAA championship, she couldn’t watch.

“Over the years I developed the theory that I’m a jinx when watching any team that I’m favoring,” said Courington, a member at Stewart Courington Dugger Dean in Dallas. “So my contribution to the Blue Devils, whom I deeply love, is that I never watch them play.”

In every other respect, Courington engages directly with her alma mater. A member of the Law Alumni Association (LAA) Board of Directors since 2012, she has also served as a class agent and on her class reunion committee. She co-chairs the Duke North Texas Women’s Forum and is a member of the North Texas Regional Board. And she is a regular participant in the Business Law Society’s annual ESQ symposium.

Courington credits Duke Law with giving her the skills to adapt to change over the course of her career. “I was struck by something Dean Levi said in a recent ‘state of the school’ address, that a Duke Law education gives you the training and intellectual tools to adapt to changes in the practice of law, to changes in the business world, to changes in the legal world,” she said. “Certainly my career has gone through changes.”

Having started as an antitrust and trial litigator in private practice, Courington gained significant trial experience as a Dallas-based antitrust prosecutor for the U.S. Department of Justice, where she learned how the government builds cases and grand juries operate. That served her well when she moved back into private practice, where she has handled a wide range of cases, finding — somewhat to her surprise — an affinity for cases involving scientific, medical, and technical subject matter. She now focuses on health care law, including white-collar health care fraud cases, at her boutique firm, which serves many clients in highly regulated industries.

“I have a chance to help clients who want to comply with the law,” she said. “I have often found that health
Investing in excellence

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIPS AT DUKE LAW REPRESENT critical investments in faculty and research. They ensure the Law School’s ability to attract and retain professors who are scholars and teachers of the highest caliber, like Professors Samuel W. Buell and Margaret H. Lemos. Both are the inaugural recipients of Distinguished Chair awards, which were announced by Duke University President Richard H. Brodhead on April 30 and take effect on July 1.

Buell, left, whose research and teaching focus on criminal law and the regulatory state, received the Bernard M. Fishman Professorship, established by Mark ’78 and Jill Fishman in 2012 to honor Mark’s late father and business partner.

Lemos, a scholar of constitutional law, legal institutions, and procedure, received the Robert G. Seaks LLB ’34 Professorship. Terry G. Seaks PhD ’72 established the professorship that honors his father in 2013.

“Professors Sam Buell and Maggie Lemos are talented and valuable members of the Duke Law community — insightful, influential scholars in their respective fields, superb teachers, and caring mentors and colleagues,” said Dean David F. Levi, who nominated them for their awards. “They are both highly deserving of this honor.”

Care white-collar cases begin not with any fraudulent intent, but with a failure of compliance.

“Practice is so much different now than it was when I left Duke in 1977,” she said, noting, for example, how few cases go to trial compared to the number earlier in her career. “But I believe the intellectual training I got at Duke and the confidence that that kind of training gives you makes you willing and able to adapt.”

In recent years, Courington has forged a special relationship with Sara Sun Beale, the Charles L.B. Lowndes Professor of Law, whose work she directly supports with her annual contributions to the Law School. She cites the quality of Beale’s scholarship in white-collar defense and the esteem in which she is held by academics and practitioners alike, as well as her skills as a teacher and mentor.

“Sara is an eminent and distinguished scholar and a dear personal friend. I think that Duke is so lucky to have her,” she said. “I’ve seen her in class. She has an ability to take a complex topic and highlight the serious points in a clear way that does not lose any of the nuance. You have to do the same thing as a trial lawyer, and I think Sara does it really well. She also takes such a keen interest in her students and connects with them so well. I think she’s a very exciting professor.”

Beale says she is grateful for Courington’s financial support, which she uses for research assistance and academically related travel for herself and guest speakers in her class. But she is also grateful for the many other ways Courington supports the Law School. “She has been a guest lecturer in my class, and she has introduced me to her impressive network,” said Beale. “She is also a tremendous asset to current students, doing mock interviews, giving career advice, and helping them network. I have seen her mentor younger alumni and help both junior and senior alumni to connect them to the Law School.”

A native of Southern Arizona, Courington said Duke was not particularly on her radar as a top choice for law school until Paul Hardin III ’54 (then the president of Southern Methodist University, where she was a student leader) said she “would be making a big mistake” by bypassing Duke. Her visit proved him right.

“I literally lost my heart to Duke after two or three minutes on campus,” she said. “I often think that I should write Paul Hardin a letter and tell him how much our conversation changed my life!”

Courington’s service on the LAA board has kept her coming back and connected with classmates and has introduced her to the broader alumni community.

“I know a lot of lawyers, but I don’t know many who truly love their law school the way the other alums I know love Duke,” she says. “I attribute that to something so extraordinary and special about Duke — both to the school and to the kind of person it attracts, and to the way we’re all bonded together over a lifetime.”
Reunion 2015
Alumni from classes ending in “0” and “5” and members of the Half-Century Club gathered at the Law School April 17-19 to celebrate their reunions. The Law Alumni Association honored Susan Prosnitz ’89, Gary Lynch ’75, Yi Lin Chua ’00, and Yan Xuan ’87 for their career achievements and service to Duke Law. Professor Sara Sun Beale received the A. Kenneth Pye Award for Excellence in Education.

'65

'05
Sixth Annual International Alumni and Student Dinner
New York City, Jan. 29, 2015

Duke Law alumni, friends, and LLM students gathered on Jan. 29 at the Netherland Club for a dinner hosted by Professor Paul Haagen, who serves as associate dean for international initiatives, and Associate Dean Jennifer Maher ’83. Yan Xuan ’87, above, president of Nielsen Greater China, delivered a keynote address. The dinner followed a reception hosted by Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, held in conjunction with the Law School’s International Student Interview Program.

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