Giving Makes Greatness Possible

Cecelia Klingele’s comment on the preceding page that scholarships “open people’s imaginations about what they can do” is striking. Cecelia was referring to law student scholarship recipients, but donors’ imaginations also are opened when they make scholarships happen.

Imagining what a scholarship can do — what it will mean to the student recipient and how it will change that student’s life forever — is one of the things that makes giving to scholarships so meaningful. Imagining what a scholarship can do, however, can go well beyond how it will affect the individual recipient. Providing a scholarship to help educate a remarkable student may also mean changing the lives of many others down the road, making a difference to clients, the community, and the legal profession.

Cecelia Klingele is a student who is likely to make a difference to many, and it is because of her donors’ imaginations that she is part of the UW Law School. Where will your imagination take you? How can you make greatness possible?

For opportunities to make things happen at our Law School, please call or e-mail me. I look forward to hearing from you.

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2005 Class Gift Will Support Work in Public Interest Law

This year’s graduating class gift will be a special one — helping classmates to pursue their commitment to public interest work.

The Student Bar Association is following the lead taken by the UW Law School’s Public Interest Law Foundation (UW-PILF), a student organization committed to reducing the financial barriers to working in public interest law. Members of the Class of 2005 will make five-year gift pledges designed to help classmates with low-paying public interest or public service jobs repay law school loans. The gifts are to be completed by the class’s fifth reunion in 2010.

The Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) provides loan repayment assistance to eligible graduates in qualifying public interest or public service employment. The goal of LRAP is to enable students who come to Wisconsin wanting to do public interest work to be able to follow through despite concerns about educational debt.

To qualify for LRAP assistance, UW Law School graduates must go to work for non-profit organizations or government agencies, and there is a general salary cap of $36,000. Eligible graduates who have received assistance through the program in the past three years have each received lump sum payments equal to three to five months of student loan payments.

Jane Heymann, assistant dean for career services, comments, “The LRAP at Wisconsin is still in its infancy, but we are actively recruiting donations to help fully fund it. What we have put together is a very good starting point, but the long-term goal has always been to set up a more traditional LRAP program that offers continuing support, rather than a one-time payment.”

In addition to LRAP, another Law School program, the Summer Public Service Fellowship Program, helps law students afford to take summer positions with public interest employers by providing grant money to students working in summer public interest positions after their first and second years. Last year the program made forty-one grants of $2,500 each to students for summer work, and a similar number will receive grants this year. This money comes from a variety of sources, including donor gifts, PILF fundraising events, the 5K run/walk known as the Race Judicata, and work-study money through the university.

For more information about the Summer Public Service Fellowship Program or the Loan Repayment Assistance Program, contact Assistant Dean Jane Heymann at jheymann@wisc.edu or (608) 262-6413.