“Good News” Takes On a New Meaning

Dear Friends,

Our annual Dean’s Report is a chance to share good news with you, our alumni and friends who, year after year, invest in our community and make Richmond Law the truly special place that it is. This year, amidst a global pandemic, “good news” takes on a new meaning. It’s more important than ever to pause and celebrate our accomplishments — and to recognize the people who helped make those accomplishments possible.

From transitioning to an online learning environment in the spring to celebrating remotely our 150th anniversary in the fall, this year has been all about adapting. This year has also been about looking with fresh eyes on the structures of social justice in our community. In the months and years to come, I know we’ll continue this hard work together.

I’m grateful to you for supporting Richmond Law along this journey. From job placements for students who lost summer positions due to the pandemic, to financial contributions to support students in times of hardship, you stepped up to make a true impact on our community.

I look forward to celebrating our 150th Anniversary with you in person once public health permits. As we prepare for the next 150 to come, I’m excited to see what the future holds.

With gratitude,

Wendy C. Perdue
Dean and Professor of Law

A COVID Pivot

When faced with the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the key word for members of the Richmond Law community became “pivot”. From teaching methods to learning styles and everything in between, students and faculty received a fast lesson in how to adapt and be flexible.

Faculty quickly immersed themselves in online learning best practices, using the pandemic to their students’ educational advantage. Students in Professor Joel Eisen’s administrative law class, for example, undertook a project to analyze federal agencies’ responses to real-life issues brought about by the coronavirus. In Professor Jessica Erickson’s securities regulation course, students used the very technology that facilitated their new online learning environment – Zoom – as a case study in initial public offerings.

Students adapted to their new learning environments while also finding ways to support their local communities. Working through the Carrico Center for Pro Bono & Public Service, students partnered with the Virginia Poverty Law Center to support a statewide eviction legal helpline, and supported a COVID-19 conditional pardon project.

Meanwhile, alumni looked for ways to support students impacted by the pandemic, including contributing to a newly established Law Student Emergency Fund launched by the AccessLex Institute, and creating meaningful summer internships for students whose summer job experiences were canceled due to the coronavirus.

August brought most students back to campus – albeit masked and physically distanced. “The entire Richmond Law community has responded with such determination, empathy, and grace,” said Dean Wendy Perdue.
The events of 2020 provide a strange backdrop to celebrate a 150th anniversary. At the same time, now seems like a more appropriate time than ever to honor an institution that works to advance the cause of justice. As a law school, justice is at the heart of all we do. And in our shared work, we’ve accomplished something pretty remarkable together. We’ve built a community of lawyers who are fierce advocates for their clients; who give back to their communities; who think critically and act ethically to serve their profession. We’re proud and grateful you’re a part of this community. The world needs great lawyers, and our graduates have met that need for the past 150 years. Here’s to the next 150!
For Aaisha Sanaullah, L’22, a position working for Special Olympics International was a dream job she didn’t expect so early in her career. But that’s just where she found herself thanks to hard work and a Summer Public Service Fellowship. Aaisha remotely helped the legal team with contract review while learning about in-house counsel positions.

The fellowship broke down financial barriers for Aaisha: “The fellowship is 100% of the reason I could accept a job with Special Olympics,” she said.

Not all students had positions that could transition to a remote environment. When some were left without fellowship opportunities, our alumni stepped in to help, identifying pro bono and public service positions. “Through their generosity in making gifts and hiring students, alumni and friends made it possible for 258 of 267 1L and 2L students to secure a position,” said Janet D. Hutchinson, Associate Dean for Career Development. “We join our students in saying ‘thank you’ for helping connect them with substantive legal experience, especially during this most unusual summer.”

When Nancy Litchfield Hicks, L’85, and her husband Hal Hicks decided to establish a scholarship at Richmond Law, it was with the hope of making a legal education affordable — particularly for first-generation students.

A first-generation law student herself, Nancy was a member of the Richmond Law Review, and was known for her deep kindness, sharp mind, and warm presence. She practiced real estate and general corporate law for 12 years before transitioning to stay home with her three sons — Joshua, Matthew (R’15), and William.

Nancy Hicks passed away in August 2020, and the Nancy Litchfield Hicks (L’85) Memorial Scholarship will honor her memory and legacy while supporting students for generations to come.

The University’s Annual Day of Giving may have been postponed due to the pandemic — but the delay didn’t dampen your generosity.

Janice Moore, L’81, kicked things off with a challenge in honor of the 150th anniversary, giving every 10 donors the opportunity to unlock $10,000 up to $150,000. Moore was so inspired by the enthusiastic participation of alumni and friends that she increased her challenge to $200,000.

Faculty and staff got in on the fun thanks to a $5,000 matching grant and a $5,000 bonus match from Jim Gibson, Sesquicentennial Professor of Law, and Corinna Lain, the S. D. Roberts & Sandra Moore Professor of Law.

All told, you made an impact with gifts totaling over $350,000!
THANKS TO A FOUNDATIONAL GIFT FROM DEAN WENDY PERDUE AND HER HUSBAND, DAVID, A NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUND WILL MAKE A RICHMOND LAW EDUCATION AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TO DESERVING STUDENTS IN NEED.

A whopping 87% of the Class of 2023 received a scholarship to support their legal education this year—the highest percentage ever! Your gifts help make law school a reality for some of the best and brightest future lawyers.

87%
The opportunity we had to attend one of the highest rated law schools in the country, we have proudly established the William and Sara, '00 and Andrew E. Boehm Law Society. Attending the University of Richmond Law School is one of the greatest privileges I’ve ever had in my life. It gave me an opportunity to practice law with a passion and commitment to help others. This year, along with the help of many of our classmates, we have proudly established the Class of 1980 Scholarship Fund to afford others the same opportunity we had to attend one of the highest rated law schools in the country. I look forward to continuing to support Richmond Law and now for many years to come.”

— STEVE CANELLA, '80

**GIVING BY CLASS**

**Recognizing all alumni who made a gift in Fiscal Year 2020**

**1962**

The Hon. W. Reilly Marchant, '79 and Robert B. Lloyd Jr., '81

Frances and E. Bradford Ladd Jr.

The Hon. Walter Felton Jr., '69 and Ellen and Steven M. Edmonds, '77

Erin and Jonathan Chiu, '06

The Hon. James A. Cales Jr., '68 and Sarah, '00 and Andrew E. Boehm

Rhona and Irving M. Blank, '67

Leroy L. Anderson III

Anonymous

$1,000–$2,499

Emily and Frank Talbott V, '13

Providence, '11 and Wendy Napoleon

Stephanie, '14 and Jonathan Martinez

Regan L. Fuerst, '18

Mayme Donohue Willis, '15 and Phoebe Willis

(1 -10 years since graduation)

Lane and Charles F. Witthoefft, '72

The Hon. Frederick P. Stamp Jr.

Charles B. Phillips

Wilson C. Outten Jr.

Phyllis A. Joyner

1963

Nicholas O. Antonazzo*, J. Edward Betters

The Hon. Andrew J. Canada, Jr.

The Hon. Robert E. Gillett*

The Hon. Lawrence L. Koontz, Jr.

John P. Rawlings

The Hon. Harvey E. Schlesinger

Charles A. Stanizale Jr.

1964

Thomas B. Davidson, Jr.

James G. di Zerbo

Griffin T. Garnett*'

J. Jerry Kantor

Kenneth R. Kiff

Walter A. McFarland

Mark C. Schnitzler

Barry P. Steinberg

C. Daniel Stevens

1965

Irving M. Blais

Doris J. Hestevold

The Hon. Joseph P. Rushbrooke

1968

The Hon. William R. Slater Sr.

The Hon. Frederik P. Stamp Jr.

Thomas Stahl III

1969

Anonymous

The Hon. Joseph P. Johnson Jr.

Michael A. Korb

Donald B. Vaden

1970

L. Dale McGhee Sr.

1972

The Hon. Dennis F. McMullan

Steve H. Weil

1973

Richard J. Carver

Matthew L. Elliott

Tom B. Foley

William K. Grogan

Joseph B. Prince IV

William F. Siglbauer

Charles K. Tribus

1974

Edward D. Barnes

Hamid D. Jones

Donald A. Lahy

Brian M. Kulas

Joshua J. Phillips

Barry P. Steinberg

Cheryl M. Strickland

Sandy T. Tucker

The Hon. Coleman Beals Jr., '19

1975

The Hon. Edward W. Hanson Jr.

The Hon. Lee A. Harris Jr.

The Hon. Robert D. Hester Jr.

John W. Descher

Richard C. Kadi

The Hon. Frederick King

John L. Kington

The Hon.Bruce H. Kohler

The Hon. William H. Logan, Jr.

Frank T. McMullan

The Hon. Norman deV. Morrison

The Hon. George D. Varoutsos

The Hon. David S. Whitacre

The Hon. Andrew J. Canada Jr.

J. Edward Betters

The Hon. Robert G. Woodson Jr.

1976

The Hon. Charles B. Foley

The Hon. Robert R. Hull, Jr.

The Hon. Charles A. Huffman III

The Hon. Lee A. Harris Jr.

Robert R. Hull, Jr.

The Hon. Charles L. King Jr.

John T. King

L. Peyton Humphrey

W. Birch Douglass III

John P. Causey Jr.

1977

The Hon. James A. Cales Jr.

The Hon. James E. Cales

John P. Causey Jr.

1978

The Hon. William R. Pumphrey

Vincent D. Hardy

The Hon. David S. Whitacre

The Hon. David S. Whitacre

The Hon. George D. Varoutsos

The Hon. David S. Whitacre

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John P. Causey Jr.

2018

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The Hon. James E. Cales

John P. Causey Jr.

2019

The Hon. James A. Cales Jr.

The Hon. James E. Cales

John P. Causey Jr.

2020

The Hon. James A. Cales Jr.

The Hon. James E. Cales

John P. Causey Jr.
If your wife or I give quotes, we talk about it. First, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will also be." Second, "Put your money where your mouth is." Well, my heart and my mouth have been at UR Law since 2003.

— PROFESSOR HANK CHAMBERS AND PAULA CHAMBERS
Richmond Law provided a wonderful foundation for my legal career. Faculty, course work, and activities helped me develop the skills needed to begin my career. Since my graduation, the Law School has continued to offer more and diverse programs, scholarships, and fellowships to develop a well-rounded lawyer. I choose to support the Law School so that current and future law students will have the opportunity to engage in these experiences which will provide the time the skill set needed to be confident starting their own legal career.

— MEREDITH THROWER, L’03
Save the Date!

Our festivities might have been postponed due to the pandemic — but we still plan on celebrating our 150th anniversary in style! Save the date for the 150th Anniversary Gala on October 9, 2021 at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond — and stay tuned for more details about the Gala and regional events.