

Anonymous Donors' Estate Plan Designates \$1.8 Million for Tuition Aid

Determined to help future students access the same affordable academic opportunities they enjoyed, a 1965 Berkeley Law graduate and his wife have made a generous—and anonymous—planned gift to the school.

The couple's bequest of a portion of their estate is valued at approximately \$1.8 million. It will be earmarked for the dean's discretionary financial aid fund to maximize the gift's impact.

The donor, who recalls paying \$2.30 per semester for his undergraduate coursework at Baruch College of the City University of New York in the late 1950s, credits his career success to a virtually cost-free education. His planned gift will provide financial opportunities at Berkeley Law for students who need them most.

"My wife and I are both products of public education," he says, "and I see the value of that from a very personal standpoint."

Before receiving his law degree, the donor earned an M.B.A. from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business in 1961. His wife attended Mills College before receiving a B.A. in French from UC Berkeley in 1963.

"I felt privileged that I was able to go to an exceptional school," the donor says about his time at Berkeley Law.

An acute fear of failure motivated him to work hard, he recalls, especially in law school. He holds particularly fond memories of professor Richard Powell, whose property law course inspired a standing ovation from his students on the last day of classes.

"Professor Powell gathered his notes and walked out, and we continued to applaud," says the donor, who retired after 44 years of practicing maritime law in the Bay Area. He and his wife have two grown daughters, and two grandchildren who are now in college.

As their daughters achieved financial independence, the donor and his wife arranged for the remainder of their estate to be divided between Berkeley Law and two other universities upon the death of both spouses.

Planned gifts to Berkeley Law can not only satisfy personal financial planning needs, but also provide the school with important long-term support. Gifts made through a will generate significant estate tax benefits, and revocable gifts are now considered planned gifts if the donor is age 70 or older.

The donor says he and his wife "both agree that giving back is the right thing to do."

—Wendy Witherspoon

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