

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

BY GAYLE W. MAZALEWSKI, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

New Endowed Funds

In recent months, four new endowment funds have been established that will provide critically needed financial assistance for deserving Pierce Law students and recent graduates. Last fall, the Board of Trustees endorsed an effort to build the endowment by raising gifts for student scholarships and the Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP). The gifts funding these newly established funds are among the first responses to this effort.

A named endowment fund can be created with a minimum gift of \$25,000. Contributors to our effort include alumni who benefited from their Pierce Law experience and now want to give back and individuals who care deeply about the mission but until recently had only a limited relationship with Pierce Law. Each of these generous gifts comes with a powerful story behind it.

The Stanley M. Brown Scholarship Fund

The Brown family legacy at Pierce Law began in the early 1970s when Stanley M. Brown, working for the American Bar Association, helped Pierce Law gain accreditation. This legacy continues with his son, Kenneth C. Brown '78, a current member of the Board of Trustees, Ken's son, Andrew '06, and daughter, Sarah '07.

As chair of the Major Gifts Committee, Ken assumed a leadership role both in managing the committee's efforts and with his own generosity. Ken has established a scholarship fund honoring his father that will provide financial assistance to a Pierce Law student who is a New Hampshire resident and who graduated from a New Hampshire public high school. A lifelong New Hampshire resident and clearly proud of it, Ken explains that he, his father, Andy and Sarah are all graduates of the New Hampshire public school system and he wants to assist others who have had a similar experience.

Fleisher Family Fund at Franklin Pierce Law Center

Dean John Hutson smiles as he remembers first meeting Hilda Fleisher '81 and says it was the first, and only, time a graduate described themselves to him as a "patron of the arts." However, Hilda's interests go well beyond art. She served in the New Hampshire legislature and realized a life in politics was not to be. At the suggestion of a fellow legislator, she decided to go to law school with no clear career objective. She says law school was hard work but she loved her Pierce Law experience, the friends she made and the different side of life that law school offered.

In recognition of her Pierce Law experience and acknowledging the financial disparities new public interest lawyers face with their career choice, Hilda has established an LRAP fund that will provide an annual award to assist one or more recent Pierce Law graduates. These recipients shall be employed as public interest/social justice advocates in the state of New Hampshire.

The Alison Howland Curelop Hayward Fund

Ellen and the late Dr. Sidney Curelop, longtime Nashua, NH, residents, held great esteem for David Frydman, former director of the Health, Law and Ethics Institute at Pierce Law. When they wanted to memorialize their deceased daughter, Alison, who had been a public interest lawyer, they turned to Pierce Law even though she was not a graduate. Through Alison's experience, Ellen and Sidney fully understood the financial challenges public interest lawyers face and appreciated Pierce Law's excellent work in educating and training public interest lawyers.

The fund they established in Alison's memory is now the largest endowed LRAP fund at Pierce Law. This fund will provide an annual award to assist one or two recent Pierce Law graduates who perpetuate Alison's commitment to public service. The recipients shall be employed as public interest/social justice advocates and preference will be given to graduates practicing health care law.

Phillips Green Defender Fund

Cathy J. Green '77, current member of the Board of Trustees, is a former public defender and longtime member of the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Public Defender. She and her family have established the Phillips Green Defender Fund to assist annually one or more Pierce Law graduates, who are hired as public defenders and pledge to remain in that job for three years, with their law school loans. Preference will be given to a graduate in the New Hampshire Public Defender Program.

Cathy is very aware of the huge educational debt load many lawyers face when they leave law school and how difficult it is to remain in the public defender program when private practice promises a much more lucrative financial position. She and her family hope that, through their LRAP fund, some Pierce Law graduates will become public defenders and dedicate themselves to the "difficult but tremendously rewarding career of criminal defense."