2016

Giving Highlights

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Endowed scholarships to benefit energy law students

Two endowed scholarships for OU Law students with a demonstrated interest in energy law were announced in January. The Mahaffey & Gore Endowed Scholarship and the Owen L. Anderson Endowed Scholarship are both $100,000 or more and will each generate approximately $5,000 annually to be awarded to outstanding and deserving students.

With a gift of $105,000, Mahaffey & Gore PC, a full-service energy law firm in Oklahoma City, established the Mahaffey & Gore Endowed Scholarship. Attorneys at the firm, many of whom are OU Law graduates, specialize in energy law, petroleum exploration and development contracts, and oil and gas litigation.

“As an OU Law graduate, I have enjoyed a successful and stimulating career in private practice, primarily in the area of oil and gas law,” said Greg Mahaffey (’75), president of Mahaffey & Gore PC. “It is important to give back and recognize those who have contributed to your success. I believe OU Law is well-equipped to train future top-ranked lawyers, and as such, I am proud and delighted to endow the Mahaffey & Gore Endowed Scholarship to assist OU Law students interested in pursuing a law career in oil and gas, natural resources or energy.”

Following an initial gift of $50,000 in 2014 to establish the Owen L. Anderson Endowed Scholarship, an anonymous donor provided an additional $50,000 to increase the endowment to $100,000. The scholarship honors former professor and Eugene Kuntz Chair of Law in Oil, Gas and Natural Resources Owen L. Anderson, who taught at OU Law from 1992 to 2015.

Anderson also served as the director of the John B. Turner LL.M. Program and was a George Lynn Cross Research Professor. He assumed emeritus status in December 2015 upon his retirement and will serve as a founding member of the new advisory board for OU Law’s various programs in oil and gas, natural resources and energy law.

“These significant gifts serve as an immense contribution to our mission of making legal education affordable to the most talented students, while also continuing to extend our national and international reputations for excellence in oil and gas, natural resources and energy law,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “Both scholarships uniquely advance our work: the first, created by one of Oklahoma’s top energy law firms, emphasizes our commitment to partnering with the best legal minds in energy law; the second honors the legacy of a dearly loved and respected professor, Owen Anderson, and his many contributions to our energy program. We are grateful to our donors for their support of OU Law.”
The Frank and Lucille Pope Endowed Scholarship was established by the estate of Frank Pope Jr. (’56) and his wife, Lucille Pope. The gift of more than $620,000 will generate approximately $31,050 annually to be awarded to eligible students, with a preference given to Native Americans, specifically students of Cherokee descent.

“Frank and Lucille’s powerful gift helps OU Law remain affordable for the most talented and deserving students,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “Their preference for the scholarship monies to be awarded to Native American students further emphasizes our College’s commitment to making a legal education accessible to all. We are grateful for their thoughtful support of OU Law and are honored to be a part of their legacy.”

Frank Pope Jr. was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1926 to Frank Pope Sr. and Johanna Chambers Pope. His mother was of Cherokee descent, and Frank took great pride in his Native American heritage. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma’s College of Business in 1950, and later earned his law degree in 1956. Frank served in the U.S. Army during World War II and as an attorney with the U.S. government in Washington, D.C.

Lucille Pope was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, in 1926 to Charles Stout and Blanche Dissinger Stout. After her rural upbringing, she chose to become a secretary, and eventually relocated to Washington, D.C., where she served as secretary to the chief of chaplains for the U.S. Army and later, at the Pentagon in the office of General Omar Bradley.

Frank and Lucille married in 1974 and lived in northern Virginia until they retired in 1981. They spent their retirement traveling worldwide, playing tennis and enjoying fine dining. Frank died in 2012 and Lucille passed away in 2015.
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