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Volume 2011 | Issue 1  
*Spring/Summer 2011*

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2011

## Giving Highlights

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## ▶ Marian Opala remembered at event to benefit endowed scholarship



Hank Watson, Howard K. Berry, Jr., Linda Weaver, Josephine Freede, Paul Dudman and Allen Harris are pictured outside the Chapman Great Reading Room.



Dean Emeritus Andy Coats presents a gift commemorating the occasion and the friendship between Justice Opala and Josephine Freede, benefactor of the event.

Friends and colleagues of the late Marian Opala gathered January 22 at what was to be the celebration of his 90th birthday to remember the former chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court and to raise money for a scholarship honoring him. The Justice Marian P. Opala Endowed Scholarship was established at the OU College of Law in 2009 by a committee of his friends, led by Allen Harris. Opala died October 11, 2010, after serving on the Supreme Court for 32 years.

The dinner event was held in the Chapman Great Reading Room of the Donald E. Pray Law Library. Howard K. Berry, Jr., John Mark Young and Dean Emeritus Andy Coats shared remembrances of Opala. Josephine Freede was benefactor of the evening, while patrons included Howard K. Berry, Jr., Paul Dudman, Elliott Fenton, Hank Watson, Allen Harris and the Linda C. Weaver Family Trust.



Debbie Moore, Bob Dennis and Diann and Jim Howell attend the memorial dinner benefiting the Justice Marian P. Opala Endowed Scholarship.

The scholarship was created to recognize and honor Opala's contributions to the state and the nation. It is awarded to a student who demonstrates leadership and service, following the example set by Opala.

▶ **Two new giving societies formed**

As the University of Oklahoma College of Law enters its second century, College leaders are building upon OU Law’s generations of excellence, ensuring the College thrives as a great public law school and continues to train outstanding lawyers who will serve the state and society.

Achieving these objectives requires private support to ensure a quality education and assist students with financial needs. Major endowment gifts are important, but a strong annual giving program is vital. Annual giving provides immediate support for the College of Law and its students each year.

The OU Law community announces two new giving societies – The Dean’s Leadership Circle and The Dean’s Second Century Scholarship Society – which were created to pave the way for future successes.

**The Dean’s Leadership Circle**

This is a key group of exceptionally committed leaders who have made a three-year annual commitment of \$5,000 to the College of Law. Critical to the goal of maintaining and enhancing the quality of a legal education from OU Law, this giving society offers the dean resources to take advantage of exciting opportunities for faculty and students and to support innovative programs to further enrich the OU legal education.

The Dean’s Leadership Circle fund will be available to:

- Send members of OU’s legal teams to annual competitions
- Develop global programs like the International Human Rights Clinic
- Bring in guests lecturers who can provide a unique legal perspective for OU Law students
- Provide special recruitment awards to help OU Law attract top students
- Provide fellowships to allow OU Law students to work for public interest organizations
- Provide faculty awards designed to help OU Law attract, retain and reward outstanding professors

**The Dean’s Second Century Scholarship Society**

Members of this giving society will make a three-year annual commitment of \$1,500 to the College of Law. This fund provides annual scholarships and will be fully expended each year, having an immediate impact on students. These scholarships, in addition to those provided by endowed scholarship funds currently available to the College of Law, have the potential of making a difference in the lives of one in five OU Law students.

Since state funding only covers approximately one-third of OU Law’s budget, it has been necessary to increase tuition and fees. About two-thirds of OU Law students take out loans to pay for their legal education, which increasingly affects choices they make upon graduation, including steering students away from careers in public service or government.

“As we enter our second century, there has never been a time of greater opportunity,” said Dean Joe Harroz. “Building upon the successes of Dean Andrew Coats, we are poised to fulfill the mission of being one of the great state flagship colleges of law. With your help, we will provide a national caliber legal education while providing access and opportunity for those who aspire to service under the law.”

# Thank you to our donors

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## Anonymous \$1 million gift used to create scholarship fund

In February, University of Oklahoma College of Law Dean Joe Harroz announced the establishment of the Oklahoma Scholars Fund, the College's largest scholarship fund for Oklahoma residents. The new fund was established with a \$1 million gift to the College by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

"The Oklahoma Scholars Fund will allow us to recruit and retain outstanding Oklahomans pursuing juris doctor and master of laws degrees at OU," Harroz said. "This gift enhances our ability to keep Oklahoma talent in state and provide Oklahoma students the opportunity to obtain one of the top public legal educations in the nation."

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goes out to each of our donors for their loyal support and continued generosity.

As the College of Law continues to grow and develop, we are creating new ways to give back. We are excited about the increased interest in planned giving and would be delighted to visit with you about the many options available. If you would like more information, please fill out and send back the card enclosed in this issue of *Sooner Lawyer* or contact me directly at (405) 325-4699.

Again, we truly thank you for remembering us in your giving plans as we continually seek to improve the quality of legal education available in Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

**David Poarch ('77)**

Assistant Dean for External Affairs