John M. Nannes, ’73

John M. Nannes has distinguished himself as an attorney and government official, as well as through his dedication to and support of the Law School.

Nannes is Go Blue through and through. The Detroit native has served on numerous Law School alumni committees over the past 40 years—including the National Committee for the Law School Fund, the Committee of Visitors, the Dean’s Advisory Council, and multiple Campaign Steering Committees. He currently chairs the Development and Alumni Relations Committee.

Nannes conceived and generously funded one of the Law School’s most successful development initiatives, the 3L Challenge. Each year, third-year students can designate $250 to the Law School student activity of their choice in exchange for their commitment to make a contribution to the Law School in each of the first four years after they graduate. Through the 3L Challenge, students see the benefits and importance of alumni giving firsthand. The program is run each year by a committee of third-year students who then are asked to become class agents for the Law School after they graduate. As a result of the 3L Challenge, the giving percentages for recent graduating classes are among the highest of any Law School class. The 3L Challenge promises to be the catalyst for lifetime alumni support for the Law School.

Following a clerkship with Justice William Rehnquist, Nannes was a special assistant to Tom Kauper in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He went on to become the first associate and later a partner in the Washington office of Skadden, Arps. Nannes has remained at Skadden except for a three-year appointment as Deputy Assistant Attorney General and then Acting Assistant Attorney General in the Antitrust Division from 1998-2001.

In addition to his work for the Law School, Nannes has served on the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Committee and the boards of the Legal Aid Society of Washington, D.C., the D.C. Bar Foundation, and the Supreme Court Historical Society. In 2009, he received the Learned Hand Award from the American Jewish Committee.