Then-U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, ’81 (at left) talks with Greg Yankee, ’08, policy director for the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts, at the June 2012 celebration of the largest single conservation easement ever made to the U.S. The easement, finalized in December, includes 90,000 acres of Colorado land owned by New York hedge-fund manager Louis Bacon. Salazar, who grew up in the area, said the land would be the foundation of the new Sangre de Cristo Conservation Area. Yankee, an advocate of the Debt Management Program (or Loan Repayment Assistance Program), says he couldn’t have done the work he wanted to do without the program’s help.

Greg Yankee, ’08, is no stranger to mountaintops. As policy director for the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts, he works with landowners to protect the open spaces that make Colorado the special place it is. And Greg has a message that should be shouted from a mountaintop: Michigan Law’s Loan Repayment Assistance Program deserves your support.

LRAP is a loan repayment assistance program that helps Michigan Law graduates to follow the career paths of their choice without regard to educational debt. To qualify, a graduate must be employed full time in a law-related job. The program contributes the difference between the graduate’s loan payment and what the graduate can afford to pay, until his or her income is sufficient to pay off the loan.

Greg says without that transitional support, he couldn’t have taken his job—a job he cares about passionately.

When he was looking at law schools, Greg received full-tuition offers from several schools, but he wanted to be part of the Michigan Law community. Even with the big debt that he would accumulate, LRAP (also referred to as the Debt Management Program) allowed him to rest assured that a public-service career was possible for him. In all, he has received about $22,000 through LRAP toward the repayment of his $120,000 loans.

Since its creation, the program has assisted hundreds of graduates who pursue careers in positions that aren’t at the top of the pay scale. Like Greg, most of those alumni say they couldn’t have done the work they wanted to do without this help.

Today the LRAP is more important than ever, as the shifting employment market also forces increasing numbers of Michigan Law graduates to consider alternatives to large-firm practice and high-paying work for their first job after graduation.

You can help. Two alumni who did are Robert B. Fiske Jr., ’55, and Wayne C. Witkowski, ’72 (see story, page 56), who both endowed loan assistance programs for Michigan Law graduates in government service.

A gift of any size to the Loan Repayment Assistance Program is welcome and appreciated. Think of it as giving a scholarship at the back end to a graduate who needs it. Think of it as paying it forward. Give us a call at 734.615.4500, and we’ll be pleased to work with you.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Baily
Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations
Building Support

Diann H. Kim, ’83, and John B. Frank, ’83

Diann Kim and John Frank knew they would make a leadership gift to Michigan Law someday. After all, they met in the Law Library, where Diann was struggling to complete her state and federal income tax paperwork. John strolled by and uttered one sentence: “Do your federal form first.” As he walked away, Diann wondered, who is this guy?

After clerkships for both, they married, and the recessional music for their wedding—in Harvard’s Memorial Church—was the Michigan fight song. They moved to Los Angeles, where Diann joined Tuttle & Taylor as a litigator, and John became a transactional and corporate lawyer with Munger, Tolles & Olson. Life got busy with two children and two careers, and John’s eventual move to Oaktree Capital Management, where he is the firm’s managing partner, and Diann’s cofounding of a firm of friends, Scheper Kim & Harris, a civil and white-collar litigation firm. Throughout, they knew they would express their appreciation to Michigan in a substantial way. Someday.

“Someday” became “now” when two irresistible forces entered their lives—first, Dean Evan Caminker, whom the couple regard as a caring friend with a warm, skillful fundraising style. “We think very, very highly of Evan,” says Diann. “We felt that he was a partner in this gift. In every way, we felt that Evan was a great leader and a really good person.”

Second, Diann learned she suffers from familial amyloidosis, the same genetic disorder that took her mother. That diagnosis, says Diann, “stops you in your tracks and tells you that your life is not going to be as you thought.” Four months after a successful liver transplant (an option that was not available to her mother), Diann was back at work. But, by then, the deck of life was reshuffled, and their priorities changed.

Diann and John have made a gift of $2 million to the building project for which, in recognition, they have named the beautiful bridge from Hutchins Hall to Legal Research. The gift honors both the dean and their relationship with Michigan Law. “We’re incredibly grateful for all that Michigan has afforded us,” says John, “and we want to ensure that our experiences, or even better experiences, are available to others.” Diann’s health crisis inspired the couple to make their gift to the Law School “sooner rather than later,” says John, “while we’re still young and can enjoy it.”

Diann and John live in Pasadena, California, with their long-haired dachshunds, George and Bo (yes, that Bo). They’re tremendously proud of their children, Hannah, a PhD candidate in evolutionary biology at Stanford, and Peter, a website entrepreneur in New York City. Neither, however, is likely to be a lawyer. Diann once put the question to Hannah and got an incredulous, “Are you kidding?”

Students Say Thanks

Football isn’t the only rite of fall for Michigan Law students. In November, the annual Student Thank-a-Thon brought a record 287 participants to the Robert B. Aikens Commons to write thank-you notes and emails to more than 1,000 Law School donors to scholarships, faculty support, programs, and the Law School Fund. The students also jotted down what they love about Michigan Law. Some of their responses appear on the next several pages.

The people! Everyone is so kind, but also so incredibly smart and motivated. It’s really a special place.

JENNA HACKENDAHL, 2L
Wayne Witkowski couldn’t forget the faces. Sad faces, angry faces, frustrated, teary, hopeless faces. Faces of candidates for admission to the District of Columbia bar—who, because of student loan defaults, risked failing the fitness review and losing out on bar membership.

Witkowski saw many such faces when he served on the D.C. Court of Appeals Committee on Admissions. He wanted to help, and he saw his law school as a place to make a difference. Through a bequest of the bulk of his estate, he has endowed a fund that ultimately will provide financial support, including student loan repayment assistance, for Michigan Law graduates who work in government service.

“I realized that the Law School had only so many resources,” says Witkowski, of Fairfax, Virginia, “and I figured if I could pitch in with my resources, I wanted to do that.”

Witkowski was working toward a PhD in engineering when he decided to pursue law instead, inspired by the social ferment of the 1960s. “I felt like I could do more to contribute to society by being a lawyer than by being an engineer,” he recalls.

Even before he set foot in the Law Quad, Witkowski had set his sights on doing civil rights work. His first job offer came from the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, and he seized the opportunity. In this first stint at the Justice Department, he handled voting rights and employment discrimination suits, developing particular expertise in school desegregation cases. Knowing he had an impact on young lives was especially rewarding.

“I have always said that after my last breath, when I am at the gates, if I’m asked why I should be admitted, I will point to that work,” he says.

The native Detroiter grew increasingly interested in municipal law, viewing the school desegregation work as part of a larger and more complex fabric of needs. Witkowski joined the District of Columbia’s law office as a civil litigator, where a career highlight was his solo defense in a three-month trial of a case brought by the contractor for part of the Mall Tunnel near the U.S. Capitol.

“At that time, there was a lot of talking about our declining central cities,” says Witkowski, reflecting on what drew him to the work. “The city is like a big civil rights engine, trying to help its people. Working as a lawyer, I was contributing to that.”

In 1994, after more than 20 years of civil trial work, Witkowski transferred to the D.C. government’s Legal Counsel Division, where he served as the division’s deputy attorney general and also as the government’s legal ethics officer—a role he says he grew into.

“Initially, I was not very self-confident and somewhat intimidated by what I knew I did not know,” he says. “Midway into my career, I started growing in confidence, and became more finely tuned to and aware of the ethical responsibilities I had as a government lawyer.”

Recently retired, Witkowski is enjoying leisurely mornings, travel, and lots of culture. Believing law schools should offer more training in professional responsibility, he’d also like to teach ethics.

“It’s how you won a case that’s important,” he says firmly, “not just that you did.”
Scott Wolstein’s first legal action was a breach-of-contract suit against U-M, filed in his third year of law school. At issue? His and his roommate’s tickets to the Michigan-Ohio State game, for which the University had accepted payment but then refunded it, claiming the game was oversold.

For an Ohio native who’s a Michigan booster on every fall Saturday but one, those were fighting words.

Wolstein and his roommate didn’t succeed in getting a temporary restraining order to stop the game, but they got their tickets and a great story to tell. His affection for Michigan has grown over the years, especially since his son Harrison received his BBA from the Ross School of Business last year. Recently, Wolstein made a gift of $250,000 to the Law School’s building project.

“I have always admired the Law School, and it played an integral role in my career,” says Wolstein. “We all have an obligation to support the institutions that help us succeed.”

Wolstein began his career as an associate with the Cleveland law firm of Thompson Hine LLP. He left in 1981 to run his own company, Diversified Equities, which structured tax-advantaged investments in limited real-estate partnerships. In the mid-1980s, Wolstein moved into venture capital and real estate work, partnering on some projects with his father, the late Cleveland developer and philanthropist Bart Wolstein.

The Wolsteins merged their companies in 1993 and took the new entity public as Developers Diversified, a real estate trust that became one of the world’s largest retail real estate concerns. As CEO from 1993–2010, Scott Wolstein led the business’s growth from total assets of $400 million to more than $16 billion.

From 1979–1989, father and son owned another, smaller family business: the Cleveland Force indoor soccer team, building it into that rare thing in the United States, a highly successful soccer franchise.

“When we took over the team, it was drawing very few fans,” Wolstein recalls. “The joke around the office was that if someone called to ask what time the game was, we’d ask, ‘What time can you get here?’”

Since last June, Wolstein has been CEO of Starwood Retail Partners, a real estate platform in the regional mall business launched last year by Starwood Capital Group. He lives in Hunting Valley, Ohio, outside Cleveland, and commutes west to Chicago (where his operating team is) and east to Greenwich, Connecticut (where his acquisitions team is). He’s relishing the new job.

“Building a company is what I really enjoy—putting a team together, working on strategy, and evaluating investment opportunities,” he says of his return to the world of multimillion-dollar real estate ventures.

Spoken like a guy who once lived in a very prime piece of Ann Arbor real estate: the top floor of the Lawyers Club tower.
Twenty-seven attorneys from Miller Canfield—an international firm headquartered in Detroit—have made a gift of more than $250,000 to the Law School’s building project.

“It’s natural that Michigan’s oldest law school and Michigan’s oldest law firm should team up to support this magnificent addition to the Law Quad we all love,” says Michael P. Coakley, ’82, principal at Miller Canfield and leader of the firm’s Litigation & Dispute Resolution Group. Coakley was instrumental in coordinating this significant collective gift.

“Miller Canfield has been one of the top employers of Michigan Law School grads for many years,” says Michael W. Hartmann, ’75, principal and CEO of the firm. “It is an honor for Miller Canfield to have a ‘home space’ at the Law School in recognition of our alumni’s support of the project. Congratulations to Dean Caminker and the entire Law School community for completing this wonderful project.”

Contributors to the gift were: James L. Allen, ’77; Eric V. Brown Jr., ’65; Harold W. Bulger, ’81; Michael P. Coakley, ’82; Thomas D. Colis, ’93; Gregory L. Curtner, ’70 (now with Schiff Hardin); William J. Danhof, ’74; Edmond F. DeVine, ’40 (deceased); Paul R. Dimond, ’69; Kelly M. Drake, ’01; Robert E. Gilbert, ’66; Gary R. Glenn, ’78; Saul A. Green, ’72; Michael W. Hartmann, ’75; Allyn D. Kantor, ’64; Thomas W. Linn, ’76; Anthony J. Marvinac, ’93; Patrick F. McGow, ’92; Stephen G. Palms, ’76; Steven A. Roach, ’86; Richard C. Sanders, ’75; Larry J. Saylor, ’76; Erik H. Serr, ’66; Timothy D. Sochocki, ’78; Steven M. Stankewicz, ’82; Amanda Van Dusen, ’79; Carl H. von Ende, ’68.

Nancy and Arn Tellem of Pacific Palisades, California, have made an additional gift of $250,000 for the building project, bringing their total commitment for the building to $500,000.

“I have always been appreciative of the great education I got at Michigan Law,” says Arn, “and our family has grown even closer to the University since our son Eric became an undergraduate there. The Law School is a treasure, and we are proud to help maintain the strength of this wonderful institution.”

Arn is vice chairman of the Wasserman Media Group, a global sports and entertainment marketing agency. Known for his representation of basketball and baseball players, he has been named the most influential agent in sports by both The Sporting News and the Sports Business Journal. Prior to his career as an agent, Arn was a partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, specializing in sports law and commercial litigation. He also served as executive vice president and general counsel for the Los Angeles Clippers from 1982–88.

In September 2012 Nancy was named entertainment and digital media president of Microsoft. From 1998–2010, she was president of CBS Television Studios, the second woman to hold the top entertainment executive position at a major television network. At CBS, Nancy oversaw programming, development, production, business affairs, and network operations. She also helped create shows like Friends and ER.

The Tellems have three sons: Michael, Matty, and Eric.
Student Support

Italian Alumni Create New Scholarship

Seventeen Michigan Law alumni living in Italy have made a collective gift to establish the Italian Alumni Law Scholarship here.

The scholarship benefits students who graduate from law school in Italy and provides up to $20,000 in U.S. dollars to pursue a master of laws degree at Michigan Law. The award will be made for the first time to a student earning the degree during the 2013–2014 academic year.

Italian students have had a presence at the Law School for 60 years, says Giuseppe Scassellati, LLM ’87, a partner in the Rome office of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. While the Italian alumni contingent is relatively small—about 50—the group includes several prominent professionals and academics.

To mark the recent creation of the Italian alumni association, Scassellati proposed that a scholarship be set up at Michigan Law for holders of an Italian law degree who wish to pursue graduate study here. The idea caught on quickly. Within a few months, Italian alumni had given a total of $100,000, which will fund the annual scholarship in its first five years.

“This project will raise the Law School’s profile in Italy and provide a continuous link with the Italian legal community,” says Scassellati. “Most importantly, it will help the scholarship recipients to enjoy their experience in Ann Arbor, both academically and socially.”

Donors gathered on December 5 to celebrate the announcement of the scholarship at a reception at Cleary Gottlieb’s Milan office. Scassellati gave remarks, as did the U.S. Consul General in Milan, Lyle Scott. Dean Evan Caminker sent a video greeting to the group.

Other alumni who donated to the collective gift are: Flavio Acerbi, LLM ’05; Antonio Azzara, LLM ’00; Francesco Capitta, LLM ’05; Roberto Casati, LLM ’74; Massimo Coccia, LLM ’84; Mario Cuccia, MCL ’81; Antonella Giacobone, LLM ’88; Francesco Gianni, LLM ’78; Paolo Iannuccelli, LLM ’03; Pietro Merlino, LLM ’00; Emiliano Nasti, LLM ’10; Matteo Negrinotti, research scholar, 2008-2009; Gabriele Sabato, LLM ’09; Giuseppe Scotti, LLM ’06; Cesare Vento, LLM ’80; and Claudio Visco, LLM ’83.
Building Support

Winston & Strawn

Six Michigan Law alumni, all Winston & Strawn partners based in the firm’s Chicago office, have made a gift of $250,000 to support the building fund.

“I feel very connected to the School, as do many of my colleagues. For me professionally, Michigan has been such an important part of who I am,” says Rex Sessions, ’84, chairman of Winston & Strawn’s labor and employment relations department and one of the lead donors on the gift.

“Michigan is also among a handful of schools that are the most important to us from a recruiting standpoint, and we were very pleased to be a part of improving the school for current and future students.”

The partners say that they understood the need for Michigan Law to expand its academic space with the building of South Hall, and to create a gathering spot for students, the Aikens Commons.

“I wouldn’t change my time at Michigan at all, but I can appreciate that the upgraded facilities were necessary given the transformations that have taken place with the technology that you’re able to use in a classroom,” says George Lombardi, ’84, chairman of the firm’s 200-attorney intellectual property practice and another leading donor on the gift.

“I think everyone who went there in my era had a real affection for that building. They really blended South Hall beautifully with the architecture of the existing buildings.”

In addition to Sessions and Lombardi, other partners who contributed to the gift were Matthew Bergmann, ’94; Ronald Betman, ’86; Thomas Frederick, ’84; and Roger Lucas, ’92. The firm itself also contributed to the gift.

Winston & Strawn is among a small group of firms whose partners made substantial collective gifts to the Law School’s building fund; others include Kirkland & Ellis; Skadden; Weil, Gotshal & Manges; Dinsmore & Shohl; Faegre Baker Daniels; and Miller Canfield (see story, previous page).
The faculty go out of their way to help the students succeed.

CAROLINE FLYNN, 3L
A Letter from Kerry Galvin, ’86, Law School Fund National Chair

Dear Michigan Law alumni,

Greetings on behalf of the Law School Fund! I’m pleased to have the opportunity to introduce myself in the pages of the Law Quadrangle and to tell you why I’ve taken on this national leadership role.

Like many of you, I began my legal career as an associate attorney in a law firm. And like many of you, I now work in house for a corporation. Currently I serve as senior vice president, general counsel, and secretary of Valerus Compression Services, a privately owned natural gas process and treating company in Houston.

Michigan Law has had an enormous impact on my life and my career. That’s why I’ve chosen now to volunteer on behalf of the Law School Fund, representing the Fund and its work to all alumni. I’ve made annual gifts to Michigan Law since my graduation in 1986, and the Law School Fund has always been my designation of choice. I think of these gifts as investments with a guaranteed return, not only helping current students, faculty, and programs, but also ensuring the continued strength of my degree.

It’s important to remember that the Law School Fund supports all the elements that traditionally keep Michigan among the world’s top law schools. These include students who have the potential to make great contributions to their workplaces and our profession; faculty whose teaching and scholarship put them in the first ranks of legal educators; solid educational initiatives like the Legal Practice Program; extracurricular activities like the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition; and much more.

But the Law School Fund is also flexible enough to underwrite promising new initiatives—startup programs, if you will—and to help out under unforeseen circumstances.

Here’s how important your annual gifts to the Law School Fund are: It would take an additional $70 million in an endowment to produce the more than $3 million that donors to the Fund give collectively each year. I find that an astounding statistic, and I hope it helps you understand just how much we need your support, each and every year.

I look forward to working with you in the years to come, and I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Kerry A. Galvin
National Chair, Law School Fund

Kenneth B. McClain Room Dedication

The Kenneth B. McClain Room was formally dedicated November 16, 2012, named in honor of Ken McClain, ’82, who, with his wife, Cindy, provided important support for the Law School’s building project. The McClain Room is the workroom for the Innocence Clinic in South Hall. Dean Caminker called the space “the nerve center of the clinic” and expressed the hope that students who learn trial advocacy skills there would go on to be as successful and fulfilled in their careers as McClain. McClain praised his Michigan education, saying the great teaching and rigor of the curriculum inspired him to surpass his own expectations. He is a litigator and partner in the firm of Humphrey, Farrington & McClain in Independence, Missouri.

Ken McClain celebrates the dedication of the Kenneth B. McClain Room with his wife, Cindy (at right), and his sister, Arnella Park.

The Michigan network is truly an incredible force! The alumni are helpful and always willing to assist in any way possible.

JOE MORRISON JR., 3L
Recent Gifts

Joy and Leonard Baxt, ’72, of Washington, D.C., have made a gift of $100,000 in support of the Zell Entrepreneurship and Law Program. Len is chairman of Dow Lohnes PLLC, where he heads the firm’s corporate practice. He joined the firm in 1972 and has been a member since 1979. The Baxts made the gift in honor of the 40-year reunion of the class of 1972, for which Len served as a co-chair.

Marla Matz Feldman, BS ’78, DDS ’82, and Stewart Feldman, ’80, of Houston, have made a gift of $100,000 in support of the Zell Entrepreneurship and Law Program. Stewart is the principal in the Houston-based Capstone Associated Services Ltd. and RSL Funding LLC, along with the Feldman Law Firm LLP.

John (Jay) Hodgson, ’62, of Worcester, Massachusetts, has made a gift of $50,000 to the Law School Fund in honor of the 50-year reunion of the class of 1962. He is of counsel to the firm of Fletcher Tilton PC.

Marcia Nirenstein and David Miller, ’79, of McLean, Virginia, have made a gift of $50,000 in support of student scholarships. David is a partner in the Northern Virginia office of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, and Marcia is a partner in the Washington office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. (Pictured here with daughter Lindsey, LSA ’13.)

Nancy Quaife, BA ’66, MA ’67, JD ’78, of New York City, has made a gift of $50,000 in support of the building project. She works at Citibank, N.A., where she is director of Fair Lending Policy and Governance.

George and wife Kim Vincent, and Dwight and wife Cynthia Vincent. “My dad and I hope that our combined scholarship gift will encourage other Michigan Law families to consider collaborating to support the Law School in a way that is meaningful for them,” says George Vincent. “Joint gifts are a great way for classmates to get together to give back as well.”
Reunion Giving

Reunion giving, especially to the Law School Fund, is an important source of funding for all aspects of the Law School’s mission. By making reunion gifts, Michigan law alumni honor their classmates as well as the Law School.

Reunions were held September 7–9 (including the Emeriti Reunion) and October 12–14, 2012. Emeriti do not formally fundraise, but the group includes many generous supporters of the Law School.

Thanks to all donors of reunion gifts and to the volunteer reunion committees!

Class of 1962

Law School Fund (LSF) total: $291,456
Total all gifts: $300,531
42% participation

Class of 1967

LSF total: $229,866
Total all gifts: $508,313
37% participation

Class of 1972
Committee: Leonard Baxt and Paul Lee, co-chairs; Robert Brown, Lawrence Dam, Jeffrey Greenbaum, Jane Griswold, Carolyn Hansen, Michael Hardy, Diane Jensen, Robert Kass, Kenneth Kraus, M. David Minnick, Stephen Lindsay, Thomas Morgan, Janice Siegel, Miriam Steinberg, Kim Swanson, Larry Titley, Mark Vander Laan, and Robert White.

LSF total: $189,447
Total all gifts: $1,766,392
33% participation
Class of 1977
Committee: Al Domanskis, Fred Fathe, Sam Field, Becky Freligh, Bruce Johnson, Harold Kennedy, Ed Marod, Mike Marrero, Gary Nickele, Mark Penskar, Charles (Buck) Schott, and George Vinyard.
LSF total: $207,049
Total all gifts: $1,685,010
28% participation

Class of 1982
Committee: Douglas Ellmann and John Lummis, co-chairs; Bijan Amini, James Brandt, Kathryn Brandt, Rachel Deming, Brian Dervishi, Thomas Eff, Timothy Hester, Catherine LaCroix, Kevin LaCroix, Diane Lehman Wilson, Rick Scarola, David Schreier, George Vincent, Richard Werder, and Sara Werder.
LSF total: $438,382
Total all gifts: $1,469,542
33% participation

Class of 1987
LSF total: $135,295
Total all gifts: $241,763
26% participation

Class of 1992
LSF total: $47,800
Total all gifts: $202,100
16% participation

Class of 1997
Committee: Kat and Rob Olin, co-chairs; Rebekah Eubanks, Michael Leffel, Carrie Palmer, Stephen Ryan, and Yvette VanRiper.
LSF total: $53,442
Total all gifts: $101,142
15% participation

Class of 1992
LSF total: $47,800
Total all gifts: $202,100
16% participation

Class of 2002
Committee: Caroline Brown, Catherine Carrigan, Chanda Davis, Renee Dupree, Tamara Jain, Shannon Salinas, Frederick Sandstrom, David Sikes, Irvin Tyan, and Beth Wickwire.
LSF total: $34,875
Total all gifts: $48,603
17% participation

Class of 2007
Committee: Adam Dubinsky, chair; Krista Adler, Lubna Alam, Laura Appleby, Timothy Caballero, Judith Cothorn, Kyle Faget, Diana Geseking, Osborne Hazel, Jeffrey Jacobi, Kelvin Lawrence, Grace Lee, Emily Litznerski, Joshua Meeuswe, Sheila Neba, Raman Santra, and Cristiana Schwab.
LSF total: $26,288
Total all gifts: $29,288
19% participation