A ZEAL for Business Law Education

For the fall semester, 67 students listed the new Entrepreneurship Clinic as their top choice—more than did so for any of the Law School’s 13 other clinics.

In the Entrepreneurship Clinic, Michigan Law students provide legal services and counseling to student entrepreneurs at U-M—bringing the Law School, for the first time, into the vibrant network of entrepreneurship activity throughout the campus.

The Entrepreneurship Clinic anchors the Zell Entrepreneurship and Law Program (ZEAL), named for its seed investor, Sam Zell, ’66, and designed to train the next generation of lawyers as leaders in law and business. This fall, the Law School welcomed ZEAL’s new director, Professor Erik Gordon, who came to our faculty from directing the Zell Lurie Institute at U-M’s Ross School of Business. Professor Gordon aims to build a great entrepreneurship program that serves students, society, and alumni well. (You can read more about Professor Gordon on page 40.)

For several years, Dean Evan Caminker has sought to find ways for Michigan Law students to learn more about business and working with business clients. This major curricular initiative includes the addition of our International Transactions Clinic (where students learn about cross-border transactions by doing them), more business-related courses, and more chances to learn and practice business law skills inside and beyond the classroom. ZEAL will build on that foundation to include cutting-edge upper division courses, intensive short courses, plus panels and speaker series, with the Entrepreneurship Clinic as a hub.

The result will be a program that prepares students with the legal, business, and entrepreneurial skills to counsel and drive successful businesses of all kinds.

We’re currently seeking matching funds for part of Mr. Zell’s generous gift, as he required. If you’re interested in the opportunity to shape the future of business law education at Michigan Law, we would be pleased to talk with you. You may reach us by calling 734.615.4500. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Todd M. Baily
Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations

Edward Kennedy Ellington smiled. Yes, thought the Duke, he could do business with this man.

The dazzling client was one face in a parade of high-profile entertainers and business people, both domestic and foreign, whom Wyckoff has counseled on tax, estate, and trust matters throughout his career. As an early specialist in foreign trusts, Wyckoff became not only a rainmaker, but a knowledgeable speaker and writer in a then-new area of the law.

“I had the good fortune to be able to generate my own business”—an atypical scenario for a trust-and-estate lawyer in the early 1970s, says Wyckoff. “That brought in a lot of different clients and legal matters.”

As trustee and president of the Homeland Foundation, Wyckoff has been instrumental in making two significant gifts to Michigan Law. The first commitment, in 1999, endowed the Chauncey Stillman Professorship for Ethics, Morality, and the Practice of Law. That professorship has been held since its creation by Carl Schneider, also a professor of internal medicine.

Recently the Homeland Foundation made a gift of $1 million for the building project as an extension of its previous generosity.

A Leckie Scholar at Michigan Law, Wyckoff earned his bread (literally) as a waiter in the Lawyers Club dining room. His career assumed its first shape when, in his 3L year, he wrote a research paper on an admiralty law topic, under the guidance of the late Professor William W. Bishop. That study, along with Wyckoff’s experience in the U.S. Navy, positioned him well to take a job after graduation with the leading New York City admiralty firm of Burlingham, Hupper & Kennedy.

While he was practicing with Burlingham, he also became counsel to the New York State Senate Judiciary Committee in Albany. “It was a wonderful experience,” he says. “I was drafting laws of all kinds.”

When he got an up-close look at the redrafting of the New York trust and estate law, Wyckoff decided to switch to the field that became his specialty for the rest of his career. He practiced with several small firms, including Valcenti, Leighton, Reed & Pine, where he became a partner and got considerable experience in the creation of foreign trusts by U.S. and other nationals.

Wyckoff went on to co-head the trust and estates department at Kelley, Drye & Warren (1979–93) and to head that department at Kramer, Levin, Naftalis & Frankel (1993–2001), both in New York City.

For nearly 25 years, Wyckoff also served as special counsel to the New York State Bankers Association Trust Division, working on significant laws affecting trusts, like the New York Prudent Investor Rule and the New York Reasonable Compensation Statute for trustee fees. Since 1947 he has been the author for West’s McKinney’s Forms for ESP (New York Estates and Surrogate’s Practice), originally four volumes and now 10 volumes, for which he provides annual updates and systematic recompilations.

Wyckoff, who lives in Old Lyme, Connecticut, with his wife, Elizabeth, and their two children, also finds time to chair the board of the Wyckoff House. The small farmhouse museum, New York City’s first landmarked building, was built in 1652 and stands as a reminder of his family’s history, and of the heritage of the Dutch in North America.
Building support

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

A collective gift of $1.3 million from Michigan Law alumni at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has put the Law School’s building campaign over the top.

The Skadden gift was instrumental in the Law School’s reaching its $70 million goal in private support toward the total project cost of $102 million. All 22 current and retired Skadden partners who are Michigan Law alumni gave to the combined gift, as did six counsel who are alumni of the Law School.

In recognition, the glass-enclosed study and media lounge in the lower level of the Robert B. Aikens Commons has been named the Skadden Study (see following page).

The gift had its roots in individual commitments made by Chicago partners John Rayis, ’80, and Seth Jacobson, ’88, before the 2009 South Hall groundbreaking. Both felt deeply grateful for what Michigan has made possible for them and their families.

“I will never be able to repay the Law School enough for what it’s done for me,” Rayis says.

This year, the gift took on a firm-wide dimension. Rayis and Jacobson, who had long supported the idea of a collective commitment, joined forces with New York partner Stuart Finkelstein, ’85, who had the same vision. They immediately involved John Nannes, ’73, of the firm’s Washington office, who they knew to be a key fundraiser for and donor to the Law School.

The partners set their sights on naming the study, a popular and much-used student space that offered a recognition opportunity at the $1 million level. They divided the names of Michigan Law alumni at the firm and began to approach each person personally to ask for a pledge to a firm-wide gift.

The pitch was direct, their belief in it wholehearted: Michigan Law helped you get to where you are today.

Reaction was swift and enthusiastic. Momentum grew as each new pledge rolled in, and 100 percent participation looked attainable. Within less than three months, the fundraisers were able to announce a collective gift of $1.3 million, greatly exceeding their goal. “This was a wonderfully collaborative and genuinely joint undertaking,” says Nannes.
The successful effort, the four partners say, speaks to Skadden’s commitment to the Law School, which today has more than 60 Michigan alumni partners, counsel, and associates.

“A lot of people involved in this gift feel that a Michigan legacy is important,” says Finkelstein. “The fact that there are so many attorneys here from Michigan Law School says something about the quality of the education and how it prepares you to be successful in the real world.”

Thanks to donors like the Skadden alumni, the house that Cook built is now more beautiful and functional than ever.

“Michigan is one of the top law schools anywhere,” says Jacobson, “and it’s important to have world-class facilities to go with the world-class professors and world-class curriculum.”

Individual Skadden donors of $50,000 or more, like all building donors at this level, are recognized on a permanent display in South Hall. In addition to the partners quoted, they also include Phillip Adams, ’72, John Beisner ’78, Jack Butler, ’80, Bruce Goldner, ’92, Eric Gorman, ’95, Susan Hassan, ’96, P.J. Huff, ’96, Peter Krupp, ’86, Diana Lopo, ’81, Gary MacDonald, ’88, Lynn McGovern, ’86, Ron Meisler, ’99, Rodd Schreiber, ’87, Deborah Schumer Tuchman, ’80, and Erica Ward, ’75

Skadden Study Dedication

The Skadden Study was formally dedicated September 15, 2012, with a program that featured remarks by Dean Caminker on behalf of the Law School, remarks by John Nannes, ’73, on behalf of the Skadden firm, and a reading of a letter from President Mary Sue Coleman by the Law School’s Erica Munzel, ’83, who worked with Skadden donors on the gift. A performance by the Friars topped off the program.


The Friars perform a song written especially to thank Skadden donors for their generosity.

Right: Champions of the gift within the firm cut the ribbon to the Skadden Study: (from left) Stu Finkelstein, ’85, Seth Jacobson, ’88, Dean Caminker, John Rayis, ’80, and John Nannes, ’73.
Commitment and vision. Frederick Mahan, a child of uneducated immigrants who labored hard to make his dreams come true, possesses both qualities in abundance.

"Fortunately, no prestigious law firm made me an offer. I succeeded on my own terms," Mahan says, adding that he didn’t do it alone. Michigan Law has loomed large in his life. Mahan’s vision now is one of legacy, and he hopes his philanthropy will encourage other alumni to give back too.

"I want to give to the Law School in order to provide future students what William W. Cook gave to us," says Mahan, of San Francisco. "He gave us a place where we can be inspired. And the school equipped me with the substance to make my own way in life."

In gratitude, Mahan has given to the Law School’s two highest priorities, the building project and student support. He is funding a scholarship to promote professionalism in the law and has generously provided for Michigan Law in his estate plan.

Born in Charleston, West Virginia, Mahan graduated from a military prep school and Gettysburg College, working his way through both. At Gettysburg (another institution he holds dear), he was a spiritual seeker, initiating a study of philosophy, psychology, religion, and life’s great questions that continues to this day.

After service in the Air Force, he chose Michigan because he says he always sought the best. He earned his way through school once again, working as a dining-room waiter and a switchboard operator in the Lawyers Club, and at various summer jobs.

Diploma in hand, he envisioned five cities as potential spots to establish a career. A friend suggested San Francisco. For Mahan, it was love at first sight for the City by the Bay.

His career as an insurance defense litigator unfolded in unpredictable ways. Attorneys referred clients when their firms had conflicts of interest. He incorporated two nonprofit corporations for the purpose of constructing high-rise apartment buildings adjacent to the church he attended. He litigated or settled several lucrative plaintiff cases. It was all the working of divine providence, thought Mahan, with a lot of help from that Michigan inspiration.

"Along the way there was uncertainty," he allows, "but I never dreamed that I would be able to take on San Francisco or any other major city and succeed against all odds. My achievements as an attorney are a monument to Michigan Law. Now it is time to pass it on."

In retirement, Mahan devotes his time to traveling with Martha, his wife of more than 50 years; going to the symphony and opera; reading; and writing. He is troubled by the state of the nation and has written a book articulating his beliefs, God Alone Is the Truth and the Way (iUniverse Inc., 2008).

While much about the legal profession today disappoints Mahan, he believes Michigan Law still stands for the qualities of morality, ethics, and professionalism that will be required of students who receive the Mahan Scholarships.

"Michigan is a place where they still have the conviction that they are the leaders and the best," he says. "And they are. I believe that."
When Margaret (“Marnie”) Seif came to law school, she dreamed of working for a record company—cutting deals, writing contracts, and, yes, managing a rock band. Intellectual property, in those pre-Internet days, mostly meant entertainment-related copyrights and the patent law niche, which held no allure for Seif.

But a funny thing happened as Seif’s career launched: Her professional trajectory lined up precisely with the worldwide technological revolution.

“Intellectual property came to be something real and important, and it happened in a direction where I started focusing, which was technology,” says Seif, of Newton, Massachusetts. “That was just serendipity.”

Seif is vice president, general counsel, and secretary of Analog Devices Inc., a multinational semiconductor manufacturer headquartered in Norwood, Massachusetts. Her career has unfolded through a series of law-firm and in-house jobs, including working for several failed enterprises.

“I was always a risk-taker, because I thought it was fun,” she says. “But I got smarter about my risks as time went on.”

Technology grabbed her when she was practicing with a Boston law firm. She loved the clients—software engineers with startup companies—whom she regarded as smart, rational, and engaged in fascinating problems.

“I really connected into the way they thought and what they were trying to achieve,” says Seif. “When you’re working with clients to solve their problems, you become a business partner to them, and that’s how I wanted to practice law.”

When Seif came to Analog in 2006, the 40-year-old company—a graybeard by tech-world standards—had never had a general counsel and employed few lawyers. Seif, who jokes that her DNA composition has shifted from law to business, quickly remade the group, bringing corporate and contract work in house, sending litigation and patent writing out.

“On my first day here I said this backroom function called legal is going to become a strategic player, or I will have failed my job,” she recalls. “And we did.”

Seif has generously supported the Law School Fund since graduation, almost as many years as she has traveled the globe with her husband, Dr. William Land, with whom she has two daughters. Giving back to the institutions that gave you a leg up, she says, is a no-brainer.

“I don’t kid myself that where I am today is all about my talent and intellect,” she says. “I draw a straight line from my undergraduate school to my law school to my career. It’s that simple.”
Recent Gifts

Nancy and Dewey Crawford, ’66, of Winnetka, Illinois, have made a gift of $33,760 in honor of the 45-year reunion of the Class of 1966, bringing their total building gift to $250,000 and continuing their support of the Law School Fund at the Cavaedium Society level. Dewey is a former partner in Foley & Lardner’s Chicago office, where he co-chaired the office’s Business Law Department and was a member of the firm’s Transactional & Securities and Finance & Financial Institutions practices.

Patricia and John Lummis, ’82, of Jackson, Wyoming, have made a gift of $50,000 to the building project in honor of the 30-year reunion of the Class of 1982, for which John served as co-chair. John is a private investor and has served as a senior adviser and operating partner for various hedge funds and private equity funds with interests in the insurance sector. Previously he was the chief operating officer and chief financial officer of RenaissanceRe, a leading reinsurance company.

Michele Schara and Randy Mehrberg, ’80, of Princeton, New Jersey, have made a gift of $50,000 for the Law School’s building project, for artwork, decor, or historical displays that would inspire students and alumni alike. Longtime supporters of the Law School, the couple previously endowed the Service Day program for entering 1L students in honor of former Dean of Students Susan M. Eklund, ’73. Randy is president of PSEG Energy Holdings and has served on the Dean’s Advisory Council since it was formed in 2006.

Erica A. Munzel, ’83, of Ann Arbor, has made a gift of $50,000 to the building project. After practicing law in Chicago for 10 years, Erica joined the University of Michigan Law School’s administrative staff, where she is senior regional director in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, working with alumni in the Midwestern states.

Amy and Bart Peterson, ’83, of Indianapolis have made a gift of $50,000 for the building project. Bart is senior vice president of corporate affairs and communications for Eli Lilly & Company.

Joan Platt Simon and Joel Simon, ’60, of Bethesda, Maryland, have made a gift of $50,000 for the building project. Joel is special counsel to Lerner Enterprises LLC, and Joan is a real estate developer on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Bruce Tuchman, ’89, of Scarsdale, New York, has made a gift of $50,000 in support of the International Transactions Clinic Enhancement Fund. Bruce is president of AMC/Sundance Channel Global, the international division of AMC Networks Inc.

Susan Wartell, ABED ’59, of Bingham Farms, Michigan, has made a gift of $100,000 to endow the C. Robert and Susan Wartell Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of her late husband, C. Robert Wartell, AB ’57, JD ’60.

Carol and John Williams, ’59, of Leawood, Kansas, have made a gift of $50,000 for the building project. John is retired from practice with Blackwell, Sanders, Matheny, Weary & Lombardi (now Husch Blackwell LLP). They are longtime scholarship donors and supporters of the Law School Fund at the Cavaedium Society level.

This fall, Michigan Law will bring back our annual Report of Giving in a more environmentally friendly form. The report will contain an honor roll of donors for fiscal 2012 and personal stories on how your gifts are being used at the Law School. Information on how to access the report will reach you in November.
Dedication Weekend

The weekend of festivities celebrating the dedication of South Hall was also a chance for the Law School to thank alumni and friends who made the building possible through their generous support. The dedication ceremony on September 7 was the weekend’s highlight. Guests also enjoyed the public conversation between Justice Elena Kagan and Dean Evan Caminker, a celebratory dinner, and an open house with the opportunity to explore all of South Hall.

Top: Marla Feldman, BS ’78, DDS ’82, Justice Elena Kagan, Stewart Feldman, ’80, and Dean Caminker share a moment after dinner. Second from top: Longtime friends Barbara and Daniel Van Dyke, BSEAA ’64, JD ’68, Bruce Bickner, ’68, and Joan Bickner at the Distinguished Alumni Awards program. Van Dyke introduced his classmate Bickner, one of this year’s award recipients. Third from top: Antonina, Norina (3L), and Jim D’Agostini, BBA ’77, JD ’80, arrive for the dedication of South Hall. Below: Jeanette Leehr snaps a photo of husband Terry Carlson, ’78, master of ceremonies for the Distinguished Alumni Awards program, and their son, Henry Carlson, a senior in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.
Top: Bruce Featherstone, ’77, Sabrina Featherstone (right), and Sabrina’s mother, Adele Hager Saunders, AB ’55, relax in the South Hall seminar room named by Bruce and classmate Bob Gorlin. Above: Sheila and Steve Hamp, MMP ’78, HLLD ’02, before dinner in the Aikens Commons. Below, left: Chris Jeffries, ’74 (right), benefactor of the Jeffries Lounge, with son Sean and wife Lisa, enjoys the ceremonial dedication of South Hall. Below, right: Masayuki Oku, LLM ’75 (center), with Mark West, the Nippon Life Professor of Law and associate dean for academic affairs, and Virginia Gordan, assistant dean for international affairs, in the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. Room in South Hall. Oku is chairman of the board of Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc. At right: From left, John Denniston, AB ’80, JD ’83, his mother, Rose Mary Denniston, Teri Anson, and Todd Anson, ’80, visit the South Hall room that honors the memory of the late John L. Denniston, ’51, who was John’s father, Rose Mary’s husband, and Todd’s family friend.
GIVING

Top left: Three generations of the Knauss family at Michigan Law: Andy Knauss, a 1L; his father, Chuck Knauss, ’81; former Michigan Law faculty member Robert L. Knauss, ’57; and Rob Knauss, ’79. Top right: Ron Davis and Barbara Rom, AB ’69, JD ’72, arrive at the Power Center for the Kagan-Caminker conversation. Center: Stephen Brown, AB ’66, JD ’69, and Faith Brown, AB ’69, visit a seminar room in South Hall. Below: From left, Chris Donnelly, ’80, Rob Spatt, ’80, and Dennis Ross, AB ’74, JD ’78, enjoy coffee and dessert near an illuminated South Hall.