Having surpassed its goal of $20 million in new funding, the School of Law successfully completed its Building on Strength capital campaign on June 30, 2004. Part of the Campaign for Washington University: A Partnership for the 21st Century, the School’s campaign raised more than $28 million to support faculty chairs, endowed student scholarships and summer stipends, and various programmatic improvements.

The 1999–2004 Building on Strength campaign followed the 1994–97 Building for a New Century capital campaign, which resulted in the financing and construction of Anheuser-Busch Hall.

“Our Building on Strength campaign recognizes that a great law school not only involves a world-class facility, but also ever-improving faculty, students, and programs,” says Joel Seligman, dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor. “We are grateful to our alumni and supporters who ensured the success of our campaign. The new capital resources have accelerated our progress in attracting and retaining outstanding faculty, attracting outstanding students, and building on existing strengths to create one of the nation’s leading law schools.”

William Webster, JD ‘49, campaign chair, says, “We are pleased that so many of our alumni and supporters generously contributed to the success of the campaign, which is critical to helping the School achieve its goals. These range from recruiting and supporting our stellar faculty to assisting our students financially in order to ensure that the School remains a leading and affordable choice for their legal education.”

Seligman adds: “In addition to supporting our faculty and students, the capital funds are critical to fortifying our programmatic strengths, especially those associated with the Whitney R. Harris Institute for Global Legal Studies, the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, and our recent public service initiatives.”

More than 70 supporters contributed gifts of $50,000 or more to the campaign, including funding from nearly a dozen foundations. Support allowed the creation of two professorships—the Thomas and Karole Green Professorship, awarded to Charles R. McManis, and the William M. Van Cleve Professorship, awarded to Jane Harris Aiken—and the upgrading of the William R. Orthwein Professorship to a Distinguished Professorship, awarded to Dorsey D. Ellis, Jr.

Other major campaign achievements included creating the Mel Brown Family Loan Repayment Assistance Program, establishing the David M. Becker Public Service Fund, and dedicating the Morris B. Retten Career Services Suite (see article on page 31).

Scholarship funding also markedly increased. It went from $627,632 in fiscal year 1999 to more than $1 million in fiscal year 2004.

Contributions to the Annual Fund, which provides support for scholarships and programmatic initiatives, also grew from about $800,000 in fiscal year 1999 to about $1.47 million in fiscal year 2004.