On April 15, 2004, the School of Law dedicated the Morris B. Rettner and Marcelle M. Rettner Career Services Suite in recognition of a generous gift by the Morris B. Rettner Foundation, Inc.

Joel Seligman, dean and the Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor, says, “I am delighted that the recently dedicated Career Services Suite pays tribute to the parents of Ronald Rettner, whose commitment to community service is an inspiration. The gift to the School from the Morris B. Rettner Foundation perpetuates the memory of his father and his spirit of generosity.”

“I am deeply honored to have the Career Services Suite named in memory of my father and in honor of my mother,” says Ronald Rettner, foundation director. “At a time when the rule of law is being threatened by lawless, irrational forces, the training of the next generation of lawyers seems especially critical. It is my hope that the Career Services Suite will help facilitate the placement of law graduates and afford them the opportunity to emerge as leading members of their profession.”

A 1972 Arts & Sciences graduate, Ronald Rettner attended graduate school and night law school while managing his family business, working as a financial analyst, and founding a retail chain. He currently is a partner in a real estate investment and management company. Since 1975 he has directed the Rettner Foundation, which previously endowed Arts & Sciences scholarships in memory of Morris Rettner and in honor of Marcelle Rettner.

Ronald Rettner, who serves on many civic and charitable boards, remains involved in his alma mater, including serving on the National Council for the Faculty of Arts & Sciences (1989-93), on the National Council for Arts & Sciences and the New York Cabinet (current), and as national reunion co-chair (1997 and 2002). He also has conducted seminars on the value of an arts and sciences education in business.

He and his wife, Karen, have two children: Matthew, an Arts & Sciences senior at Washington University, and Meredith, a senior in high school.

Morris B. Rettner (1906-74) formed and managed many businesses, including organizing a fountain pen company with a sales team who barnstormed almost every mid-sized to large city and town in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand in the 1920s. After graduating from Georgia College of Law, he practiced law in Tampa, Florida, before relocating to New York and founding and developing his real estate company. His extensive commitment to the community is shown by the bequest of the foundation that bears his name.

Marcelle Rettner was among the first class of women to earn a degree from Bernard Baruch College of the City University of New York in 1943. She taught in the New York City school system before working closely with her husband in managing their real estate business. She dedicated her later years to charitable causes, including the American-Israel Cultural Foundation and Ethiopian Project Exodus. She also was a founder and director of the Foundation for Future Generations, which perpetuates the memories of children who perished in the Holocaust, by granting scholarships in their memory.