DAVID W. DETJEN, AB ’70, JD ’73, was awarded the Officer’s Cross, First Class, of the German Order of Merit by the president of the Federal Republic of Germany, Horst Koehler.

Detjen received the award, which is the highest tribute that the Federal Republic of Germany can pay to individuals for services to the nation, at the German Consul General’s residence in Manhattan. Chair of Alston & Bird LLP’s German Practice Team in New York, Detjen was awarded the Officer’s Cross for his many years of service in and financial support of various German and German-American organizations promoting understanding and good relations between the United States and Germany.

At the ceremony, Detjen announced that he and his wife, Dr. Barbara Morgan Detjen, AB ’70, have arranged to establish an endowed scholarship to assist a German citizen who wishes to study for a law degree of any type at Washington University Law.

Among other activities, Detjen is vice chairman of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies of Johns Hopkins University, vice chairman of the German American Chamber of Commerce in New York, chairman of the German Forum in New York (which promotes initial performances by young artists from the German-speaking regions of Europe in New York City), and a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Goethe New York Inc. (which supports the activities of the Goethe-Institut in New York City). He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Burns Fellowship (which promotes the exchange of journalists in the United States and Germany). A member of the American Council on Germany in New York, he is one of only two native-born Americans who are members of the Atlantik-Bruecke in Berlin.

Detjen’s support of German–American understanding has also taken other less conventional forms. For example, he and his law firm subsidized the printing of the catalogue for the recent “Reality Bites” exhibition of contemporary German art at the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, and Detjen is currently a member of the Advisory Board of the Bucerius Kunst Forum, which is putting on three exhibitions in Germany, between 2007 and 2009, of 150 years of American art.

Detjen is a member of the law school’s National Council, Washington University’s Board of Trustees, and the International Council for the law school’s Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute. At Alston & Bird, he principally represents German and other European clients with business operations in the United States. Among his publications are books on German-American political agitation in Missouri from 1900 to 1918, and on United States joint ventures with foreign partners.

PASSING THE GAVEL

Dean Kent Syverud, center, recognized Ned Lemkemeier, JD ’62, left, for his six years of service as chair of the National Council and Steven N. Rappaport, JD ’74, for becoming the new chair at the spring 2008 National Council meeting.