The Firm Participation Challenge encourages alumni to give to the Annual Fund. It does so through a structure of alumni volunteer leaders at participating firms, creating a sense of fun competition as firms check their firm participation rates against those of other firms. Firm Participation Challenge results are displayed on the Annual Fund Donor Wall in the heart of Anheuser-Busch Hall for the subsequent academic year to honor all participating alumni and law firms.

During the law school’s 2010 fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, a record 37 law firms representing 668 alumni, were involved in the Firm Participation Challenge. Collectively, 59 percent of alumni at these firms—397 alumni total—made a gift to the 2010 Annual Fund. This was the highest rate ever achieved during the four-year history of this program. Four firms achieved 100 percent participation—Carmody MacDonald; Cordell & Cordell; Lewis, Rice & Fingersh; and Rosenblum Goldenhersh Silverstein & Zafft—and the vast majority of firms significantly increased their alumni participation rates over prior years.

The success of the 2010 Firm Participation Challenge was a significant factor in the law school achieving a 24.2 percent overall alumni participation rate in the Annual Fund, up from 22.9 percent in 2009, putting the law school closer to the benchmarks set by other top-ranked law schools, notes Gina Sholtis, senior director of alumni and development for the law school.

“We are grateful to all 37 of the participating firms and the 397 Washington University law alumni at these firms for their tremendous response,” Sholtis says.

Elizabeth Kaul, director of development for the law school and administrator of the Firm Participation Challenge, says she was particularly pleased to welcome the 12 expansion firms and many new volunteers in both St. Louis and Chicago to this year’s challenge.

“Our alumni leaders put a lot of personal effort into raising awareness among their alumni colleagues of the law school’s need for gifts of any size,” she notes. “Specifically at our 12 new
expansion firms, their efforts resulted in a participation rate of 57 percent among alumni at these firms, compared to an overall rate of 19 percent participation last year.”

Sholtis notes gifts of any size can add up to much needed scholarship aid and assist the school in other ways. “The Annual Fund is our largest source of unrestricted funding, and the majority supports student scholarships,” she says. “Just 50 gifts of $100 are enough to create an annual scholarship for a student. And, alumni participation is one of many factors impacting our national rankings, so this program is important for numerous reasons.”

Al Rose, JD ’70, who served as a Firm Participation Challenge volunteer at Lewis, Rice & Fingersh LC, says that he is happy for the opportunity to give back to his alma mater, both in terms of volunteering for the challenge and his gifts to the Annual Fund. “Our legal education is the bedrock of our careers and livelihoods, and we are fortunate to have had an education at the highest level,” he says. “It is a high priority of mine to encourage each of my alumni colleagues to make a gift to our law school. I am passionate about it.”

In large part thanks to his efforts, all 29 Washington University law alumni at Lewis, Rice & Fingersh participated in the challenge. The firm was one of four to reach 100 percent alumni participation in 2010, and one of three firms to have 100 percent participation in both 2010 and 2009.

The Firm Participation Challenge is poised to continue its expansion and welcomes new participating firms where three or more law alumni work. For more information or to become involved in the 2011 Firm Participation Challenge, contact Elizabeth Kaul at (314) 935-7381 or elizabeth_kaul@wustl.edu.

*2010 Expansion Firms

Armstrong Teasdale LLP (Steve Jones, JD ’82)
Bryan Cave LLP (Peter Van Cleve, JD ’86)
Carmody MacDonald PC (Emily Rosen, JD ’05)
Clausen Miller PC* (Dean Rauchwerger, AB ’81, JD ’84)
Cordell & Cordell PC (Joe Cordell, LLM ’08)
Curtis, Heinz, Garrett, and O’Keefe PC (Leland Curtis, JD ’68)
DLA Piper* (Susan Lichtenfeld, JD ’77 and Monica Thompson, JD ’81)
Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP* (Ed Getz, JD ’85)
Foley & Lardner LLP* (Mark Prager, JD ’76)
Frankel, Rubin, Bond, Dublin, Siegel & Klein PC (Lenny Frankel, JD ’65)
Freeborn & Peters LLP* (Rick Wendy, MA ’83, JD ’83)
Gallog, Johnson & Neuman LC (Tom Campbell, JD ’87)
Goffstein, Raskas, Pomerantz, Kraus & Sherman LLC (Sandy Pomerantz, JD ’65)
Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale PC (Tim Thornton, JD ’80)
Harness, Dickey & Pierce PLC (Bryan Wheelock, JD ’82)
Husch Blackwell LLP (Gary Feder, JD ’74; Scott Jarboe, JD ’03; and Alan Nemes, JD ’82)
Jones Day* (David Kates, JD ’95)
K&L Gates LLP* (Andrey Andrasik, JD ’91)
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP* (Karl Barnickol, JD ’97)
Kirkland & Ellis LLP* (Terry Dee, JD ’92)
Lashly & Baer PC (Jim Heitgol, JD ’89)
Lathrop & Gage LLP (Steve Horace, JD ’85)
Lewis, Rice & Fingersh LC (Al Rose, JD ’70)
Mathis, Marifiian, Richter & Grandy Ltd (Pat Mathis, JD ’78, LLM ’79)
Mayer Brown LLP* (Tom Lidbury, JD ’92)
Polsinelli Shughart PC (Jay Dobbs, JD ’91)
Polster, Lieder, Woodruff & Lucchesi LC (Philip Polster, JD ’67)
Rosenblum, Goldenhersh, Silverstein & Zafft PC (Gina Zafft, JD ’52)
Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard PC (Ken Bean, JD ’77)
Senniger Powers LLP (Scott Eidson, JD ’05)
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP (Brad Winters, JD ’81)
Stone, Leyton & Gershman PC (Steve Stone, JD ’73)
Summers, Compton & Wells PC (Ron Compton, JD ’67)
The Stolar Partnership LLP (Tom Lowther, JD ’62)
Thompson Coburn LLP (Ed Cohen, JD ’82 and Dudley Von Holt, JD ’85)
Wildman Harrold Allen & Dixon LLP* (Jim Christman, JD ’73)
Winston & Strawn LLP* (Cardelle Spangler, AB ’91, JD ’97)

*2010 Expansion Firms