Nine Firms Achieve 100% Participation in 2012 Challenge

Eight Additional Firms Join Challenge

The Law School’s 2012 Firm Participation Challenge set several records during the 2012 fiscal year. Nine firms achieved 100 percent alumni participation, up from the previous record of seven in 2011. In total, 66 percent of alumni employed at participating law firms made gifts to the Annual Fund, up from the prior record of 63 percent in 2011.

Firm agent Steve Jones, JD ’82, a partner at Armstrong Teasdale LLP, feels strongly about participating in the challenge. “I want to be one more of the many who support the school because we believe in the value and leadership of the institution,” he notes. “As supporters, we believe that appreciation, at any level, should not be silent. I also want to help the law school attract and support excellence in its student body, faculty, and facilities so that the contribution to our society by the lawyers from Washington University is a greatness that continually evolves. This is our way of saying ‘thank you.’”

Jones notes that the challenge gives alumni the opportunity for cumulative appreciation and leveraged support. “If I can help my colleagues show appreciation, I have said ‘thanks’ in yet another way,” he notes. “And if 100 percent of the alumni at our firm participate, it may encourage alumni at other firms to do the same.”

Elizabeth Kaul, law school director of development and Firm Participation Challenge administrator, says, “The Firm Participation Challenge is helpful in numerous ways, far beyond the boost given to alumni participation rates and the actual gifts given. It gets alumni talking about their law school and raises awareness of

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the importance of giving back to benefit the next generation of our students. Our alumni leadership makes all the difference. They inspire the giving.”

Now in the sixth year of the challenge, 44 law firms banded together to encourage alumni colleagues to make gifts to the law school’s Annual Fund, resulting in 476 alumni gifts that totaled $225,626 in much-needed unrestricted support for the law school and students. This is more than has ever before been attributed to alumni of participating firms.

“The law school is also on the upswing related to overall alumni participation in the Law Annual Fund, moving up from 26.9 percent last year to 28.2 percent this year, and the 2012 Law Firm Participation Challenge was a big part of that increase,” says Gina Sholtis, law school senior director of development. “We thank all our alumni who support the law school philanthropically, and particularly our alumni volunteers who also lend their leadership to this effort. Their support and involvement is invaluable to the school and our student body.”

**ALUMNI HELP FOUND, LEAD HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION**

St. Louis now has its first Hispanic bar association, thanks to several Washington University School of Law alumni and others who are seeking to increase diversity in law firms and legal departments in the city.

Serving as president of the Hispanic Bar Association of St. Louis (HBAstl) is **Patrick Chavez**, JD ’98, of Williams Venker & Sanders LLC. **Joseph Lambson**, JD ’09, of Hais, Hais, Goldberger & Coyne PC is president-elect, and **Jessica Mendez**, JD ’10, LLM ’11, of Armstrong Teasdale LLP, is vice president.

“Our mission is to promote Hispanics and Hispanic involvement in the legal profession in both the public and private sectors,” Chavez says. “The organization will serve the Hispanic and non-Hispanic community of St. Louis, while supporting Hispanic leadership in public and private life. We also will strive for full, fair, and equal opportunities for minorities in the St. Louis metropolitan area’s legal community.”

Lambson added that HBAstl will work with other bar associations and civic organizations in St. Louis and southern Illinois to promote diversity and inclusion in the legal profession while serving the legal needs of the Hispanic community. “We are coordinating with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and St. Louis Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to work directly with their members and the Hispanic community at large to serve this growing and diverse population.”

In addition to holding regular meetings, HBAstl participated in the 12th Annual Unity Dinner in April, alongside the Missouri Asian Bar Association, Women Lawyers’ Association of Greater St. Louis, Mound City Bar Association, and Lawyers for Equality.

For more information on HBAstl, contact Chavez at pchavez@wuslaw.com or (314) 345-5072.