Washington University School of Law has joined the University’s fundraising initiative designed to increase support for student financial aid. Last November, the Board of Trustees authorized a goal of $150 million for *Opening Doors to the Future: The Scholarship Initiative for Washington University*. In conjunction with this five-year effort, the law school is seeking to raise $7.5 million. Thanks to the leadership support of its Scholarship Initiative Committee, the law school already has raised $2 million toward this goal.

The following highlights four of the many outstanding scholarship recipients who attend Washington University School of Law and the crucial importance of financial assistance to the school’s mission.
It was just after September 11, 2001, on the University of Virginia campus. Student Samar Katnani, the daughter of a Lebanese-born mother and Palestinian-born father, felt keenly the fear and mistrust that had been unleashed across America. So when the International Institute for Sustained Dialogue (IISD) brought its conflict resolution methodology to campus to improve student race relations, Katnani quickly joined up. She served two years as a moderator and also began a Jewish–Arab dialogue. Additionally, Katnani developed an IISD moderator training curriculum and continues to serve on the advisory board for the organization’s campus work.

It has been a formative experience. The student dialogue reminded her that in any conflict there is truth on both sides. “Both sides are telling you something, and the answer is somewhere in between,” she says. “The key is to make sure people are exposed to different viewpoints.”

Now, in her third year at Washington University School of Law, Katnani’s appreciation for diversity has only deepened. She notes that students from throughout the United States, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and elsewhere bring varying backgrounds, ages, and life experiences both to classroom discussions and student organizations, enriching the law school community.

She is not alone in recognizing and valuing this rich mix. “Sometimes,” says second-year student Von Bryant, “I feel like I’m at the United Nations.”

Achieving this kind of diversity does not occur by accident. It happens in large measure through scholarships. It is financial aid that places law school and a legal career within reach of gifted students across the cultural spectrum. And ultimately it is financial aid that permits the legal profession to diversify its ranks and better serve its clients.

“Diversity is of paramount concern,” says Howard Cayne, JD ’79, co-chair of the law school’s current drive to fund new scholarships. “The University has a fundamental obligation to make its outstanding educational opportunities available to the most qualified students, whether or not they come from backgrounds of significant financial means.

“My firm devotes considerable energy and resources in an effort to increase the diversity of its associate and partnership ranks,” he continues. “Not only is this the right thing to do, it is essential to success in today’s ever more diverse business world. Every year, more and more of our clients demand that their matters be staffed by a diverse population of attorneys. The Scholarship Initiative is one very concrete way we can assist the law school in expanding the diversity of its top-tier student body.”

Maury Poscover, JD ’69, co-chairs the Scholarship Initiative with Cayne and their wives, Lorrie Poscover, JD ’68, and Caroline Cayne. “The school has tried for a long time to make law school accessible to all qualified students,” Poscover observes. “But costs have accelerated.”

Poscover notes that clinical and experiential programs, in which the law school is a national leader, are more costly. “You have a lower student–faculty ratio. You have space needs. It’s more expensive than simply having a lecture room full of students. But if anything, there’s an increased need for experiential courses to prepare those coming out of law school.”

The rising costs of attracting talented and diverse faculty and students, while offering an outstanding environment for legal education, spell an ever-growing need for financial aid.

“Our ability to attract exceptional students is based, to a large extent, on the funds available for financial assistance. This places extraordinary demands on the law school’s resources,” notes Kent Syverud, dean and the Ethan A.H.
Shepley University Professor. “We are grateful for the generosity of alumni and friends in helping provide vital resources for scholarship support.”

The school’s efforts to make a legal education accessible are visible in its statistics—82 percent of law students receive some financial aid. This, in turn, is reflected in the student community, whose members, like Katnani and Bryant, infuse the school with a wealth of backgrounds and life experiences.

IN ADDITION TO HER WORK WITH IISD, Katnani brings immersion in Teach For America to her law studies. For three years, she taught at a school in the South Bronx, where she also led an effort to obtain home computers and software for her students.

While overall the experience was “extremely positive,” her first year was also deeply challenging. “It was by far the hardest thing I’ve ever done in my life,” she admits. “It took every emotional, physical, and mental piece I had.” But by the second year, she had mastered important lessons. “I learned how to actually teach—to break things apart, going step by step, communicating clearly, setting expectations in the proper way. It’s a skill I’ve carried with me.”

That skill has served her well in law school—in her academic work, her position as senior staff editor of the Washington University Law Review, and her community service projects through the Women’s Law Caucus, Ready Readers program, and Race, Education & the Law seminar’s mentorship program.

Teach For America also helped provide her with a stipend to use for her education at Washington University School of Law, where she was named an Ellen Condie Scholar in Law as well.

With the assistance of these scholarships, Katnani has thrived at the law school. “The professors are phenomenal,” she says. “I like reading cases and thinking about the legal elements, and just learning so much about how the world works.”

KATNANI IS CURRENTLY ENROLLED in the school’s Congressional & Administrative Law Program, where she is working for the general counsel of the District of Columbia Public Schools. After graduation, she will join the New York City firm of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton LLP. Eventually, though, she hopes to return to community development. “My ultimate dream,” she says, “would be to use both my legal and education backgrounds to open a school or non-profit community organization.”

FAST FACTS

• In recent years, tuition dollars have covered about 64 percent of law school operating costs.

• The average debt load of law students with loans exceeds $100,000.

• Approximately 82 percent of law students receive some form of financial aid, and about 60 percent receive direct scholarship support.

• Through the years, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends have contributed a total of 89 Endowed Scholarships to the law school. During the 2009–10 academic year, these endowed scholarships are benefiting 133 law students.
JOSEPH KEILLOR BRINGS A DIFFERENT BACKGROUND to law school, but shares Katnani’s interest in education. Indeed, he has begun putting his newly acquired legal skills to work on behalf of a St. Louis charter school.

Keillor came to the law school from the United States Air Force. A Reserve Officers Training Corps graduate of Baylor University, Keillor was commissioned a lieutenant and stationed at Travis Air Force Base in California. In 2005, he deployed to Afghanistan, where he served as assistant operations officer in a logistics squad. Most of his work was “inside the wire,” on base, with young American service people. “It was amazing how hard they worked for their country,” he marvels. “They put in 80-hour weeks. I feel honored to have had such great troops.”

Keillor had always been interested in the law, but like Katnani his future was shaped by 9/11. “I definitely felt called to serve,” he says. Still, he applied to law schools as his obligatory four years came to an end, and when Washington University named him a Webster Scholar he made his choice. “It was a very generous offer,” he notes, “so I came off active duty.” He continues to serve in the Air Force Reserve and plans to apply for the Reserve’s Judge Advocate General (JAG) program.

At law school, he has prized challenging classes taught by renowned professors. “I had the famous combination of Professors Dorsey Ellis and Michael Greenfield in my 1L year for Torts and Contracts,” he recalls. “They’re a pretty legendary duo.”

He also has valued opportunities for community involvement. Working with the St. Louis Tax Assistance Program, each spring he helps low-income people file their returns. “The first year I helped people get back about $55,000 in refunds,” he recalls.

Perhaps more gratifying, though, has been his work with the new charter school. Preclarus Mastery Academy expects to open its doors in fall 2011, offering disadvantaged students a rigorous academic program. It began, Keillor explained, with an after-school and weekend enrichment program. The vision expanded, and Preclarus will ultimately offer fifth through 12th grades, says Keillor who serves on the Board of Directors.

Balancing the demands of course work, community service, and family life has challenged Keillor, particularly since his wife, Jennifer, gave birth to their first child, Nathan, in November 2008. But despite the challenges, he appreciates his law school experience—and the Webster scholarship. “Law school would not have been possible without it,” says Keillor, who has accepted an offer to join Bryan Cave LLP in January 2012. “I’m very grateful for that.”

The Scholars In Law Program was established in 1974 with gifts of $1,000 a year. In 1984 the gift amount was increased to $2,500. Today, new annual Scholars in Law gifts start at $5,000, providing support for one student for one academic year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Costs at Washington University School of Law</th>
<th>1982–83</th>
<th>2009–10</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Fees</td>
<td>$7,700</td>
<td>$41,670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Living Expenses</td>
<td>$4,250</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Scholarship</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIZABETH HUDZIK SHARES Keillor’s gratitude. For her, too, a scholarship was essential. “I was working at a nonprofit, and the Washington University tuition was higher than my salary,” she notes candidly.

Hudzik grew up in St. Louis’s Illinois suburbs—Granite City and Columbia. She majored in psychology at Loyola University Chicago and minored in music, a lifelong passion. A singer herself, she was thrilled when an internship with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis expanded into a full-time job the summer after her Loyola graduation. “It was exactly what I wanted to do, work behind the scenes in an arts organization,” she explains. She worked in development, taking care of databases and tracking contributions.

“T’ve really enjoyed the opportunities I’ve had to work in the community and use the legal skills I’ve learned in a practical way.”


- The following factors have contributed to the rising cost of legal education: the move to a more hands-on, resource-intensive approach; competition among law schools; increased diversity in course offerings; and greater need for student support services.

- Various professional schools, including medical and veterinary schools, have experienced similar annual increases in tuition as law schools.

- The percentage of law schools whose tuition can be fully funded through lower-interest Stafford Loans has decreased over time.

OPENING DOORS TO THEIR PROFESSION

ELIZABETH HUDZIK
KEN AND MARY HEINEMANN SCHOLAR

FAST FACTS
BUT LAW SCHOOL HAD ALWAYS DRAWN HER. “Sometimes,” she says with a laugh, “if you like to argue and you get good grades, your parents tell you you’re going to be a lawyer—and it sticks.” So after four years with Opera Theatre, she realized that she still aspired to the law, and when Washington University offered her substantial aid, she enrolled.

A strong public interest bent has led her into formative experiences with Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, working primarily with women and children caught in cycles of domestic violence, and clerking with the American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri, where she was given substantive responsibility for cases, meeting with clients, researching the issues, and appearing at federal court hearings. “Social justice issues are important to me,” she says. “My goal after law school is to do public interest or government work. I’ve really enjoyed the opportunities I’ve had to work in the community and use the legal skills I’ve learned in a practical way.”

As part of the Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts, she’s helped a new theater group in St. Louis County file its state incorporation papers and its federal nonprofit status application. “We need more art in the community,” she says with conviction. “Working with nonprofits, you also realize that people need the legal skills you’ve learned.”

Law school, Hudzik says, has shown her that she can work harder than she ever imagined. She has enjoyed her classes and her rapport with faculty, along with serving as managing editor of the _Washington University Global Studies Law Review_.

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**FAST FACTS**

The **Scholars in Law Program** offers the opportunity to sponsor a named scholarship at the law school on an annual basis.

### Annual Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship</th>
<th>Minimum Annual Gift</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eliot Society Benefactor</strong></td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provides support for one law student for one academic year</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eliot Society Patron</strong></td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provides support for one or more law students for one academic year</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Danforth Circle</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dean's Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provides support for one or more law students for one academic year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chancellor’s Level</td>
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<td>Provides support for one or more law students for one academic year</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Young Alumni Scholarship</strong></td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift–Eliot Society Fellow</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsorship available to graduate and professional alumni under age 35 who have graduated in the past five years</td>
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Bryant knows and understands competitiveness. A native of Philadelphia and New Jersey, Bryant’s passion for football eclipsed, for a time, his long-standing interest in the law. He played football first at Duke University and then at the University of Pennsylvania, where he transferred to study business at the Wharton School (and to return to offense on the gridiron). When a professional football career did not materialize, he applied to law schools and came to Washington University, with the help of financial aid.

But sports are “in his bones,” he says. He plays intramural sports and coaches a YMCA youth flag football team. “It’s fun and exciting to get out there with the kids, and try to be a positive influence in their lives,” he says.

Vice president of the Black Law Students Association, Bryant also mentors a middle-schooler through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Additionally, he has volunteered with the Missouri Voter Protection Program. In fall 2008, he helped register voters and then served as an election challenger, making sure that no legitimate voters were turned away. “It was a historic day,” he says. “It was exciting to be part of it and contribute what I could.”

Though Bryant hopes for a career in corporate litigation, his commitment to justice issues shapes him and will, he says, “inform his ethics” as an attorney. A course in white-collar crime this year has piqued his interest, as has securities law.

Students like Katnani, Keillor, Hudzik, and Bryant illustrate both the diversity of the law school’s student body and the incalculable value of scholarships in bringing these varied backgrounds into the community.

In November Hudzik met Ken and Mary Heinemann, who contributed funds for the Scholars in Law award that enabled her to attend Washington University. She was thrilled. “Washington University has such an enthusiastic and involved alumni community,” she observes. “How can you express enough gratitude?”
Increased scholarship aid is essential, they argue, if the school is to attract the brightest applicants, regardless of their ability to pay. It is crucial to continue diversifying the student body and ultimately the legal profession’s ranks. And it is essential to ensure that rising young lawyers are free to choose public interest law careers, unburdened by debt they would be unable to pay without top-level starting salaries.

Poscover and Cayne, both members of the school’s National Council, note that the school’s ranking has risen dramatically in recent decades. “The law school has made extraordinary strides in improving its nationwide standing,” Cayne observes. “I’m confident that with the continued support of my fellow alumni, our progress will continue.”

Poscover and Cayne are both serving on the law school’s 24-member Scholarship Initiative Committee. Poscover’s wife, Lorrie, JD ’68, and Cayne’s wife, Caroline, are helping co-chair the effort, which is part of the University’s five-year initiative.

MAURY B. POSCOVER, JD ’69, AND HOWARD N. CAYNE, JD ’79, willingly agreed to chair Washington University School of Law’s current $7.5 million scholarship initiative for a convincing reason: they themselves received a Washington University legal education only because of scholarships.

Poscover’s father was a first-generation American; his mother emigrated from Poland at age 12. Neither finished high school. But they set their sights high for their son, and he attended Lehigh University on a full scholarship and then won the same support from Washington University. He has worked for the same firm—now Husch Blackwell Sanders—since he graduated, with the same “eyes-wide-open enthusiasm” now as a partner as he felt when he started.

“None of this would have been possible without the generosity of others,” he says. “I feel quite strongly that because I was helped, I ought to spend a little time and effort helping others. Is there another Maury Poscover out there applying now who might not be able to go to school without a scholarship?”

“I personally don’t view my annual financial contributions to the University as something I should do only if I have had a particularly good year,” he says. “I am eternally indebted to the school, and I consider myself morally obligated to provide financially challenged students with the same opportunities afforded me by earlier generations of law school graduates.

“Without the significant financial support graciously provided me during a time of family crisis,” continues Cayne, a partner at Arnold & Porter in Washington, D.C., “my legal career would have abruptly terminated after my first semester. Whatever professional accomplishments I’ve achieved, I owe directly to the superb education I received at the law school.”

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