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.

“Without the significant financial support graciously provided me during a time of family crisis, 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.” – Howard N. Cayne

“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?” – Maury B. Poscover

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?”

Cayne speaks from experience. Soon after he began his law studies, his father lost his job. At that point, the law school provided Cayne with sufficient scholarship funding to allow him to continue his legal education.

“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.”

OPENING DOORS FOR OTHERS

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