LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Caynes Endow Professorship to Carry Forward the Law School’s Teaching Excellence
WHEN MEETING WITH DEAN KENT SYVERUD several years ago, Caroline Cayne recalls, “He addressed our volunteer group with these words: ‘Close your eyes. Try to remember the teachers who changed your lives.’”

Former teachers themselves, Caroline and Howard Cayne, JD ’79, felt the import of these words. “It was a powerful moment,” Caroline Cayne says. “He went on to make the point: The law faculty does change lives.”

Longtime advocates of the law school, the Caynes believe that the key to the future of legal education, and a great law school, are great teachers.

“The law school was the place where I learned to think,” says Howard Cayne, a partner with the Washington, D.C.-based firm of Arnold & Porter LLP. “The faculty had extraordinary credentials, and emphasized rigor and creativity. Whatever I’ve accomplished in my professional life, I owe to the university and to the law school.”

Caroline and Howard Cayne wanted to demonstrate their appreciation in a way that would ensure a superb experience for the students and faculty who come after them. They chose to make a $2 million gift to establish and endow the Howard and Caroline Cayne Professorship.

“Professorships are key to our vision of becoming a truly global law school,” says Syverud, the Ethan A.H. Shepley Distinguished University Professor. “We are grateful to Caroline and Howard Cayne for this wonderful gift, which will further distinguish the school and benefit generations to come.”

The Caynes began supporting the law school many years ago, when they recalled having little extra money to spare. But Howard Cayne had a compelling reason to give.

He will never forget his first semester in law school. Not so much for the rigors of case reviews or the endless hours in the law library. He doesn’t forget because he came dangerously close to dropping out due to extenuating financial circumstances.

“At the end of my first semester, my dad, a department store manager, lost his job,” recalls Howard Cayne, who grew up in Rochester, New York. “I went to Dean Shelton’s office and said, ‘I’m going to have to withdraw.’ He said, ‘No, we’ll find a way.’ A couple of days later, he put together a package of scholarships and loans that allowed me to stay in school. I later found out that he literally called people and asked for donations. He scraped together funds from the school to help me.

“I started supporting the school on a government salary—small amounts,” Howard Cayne continues. “I was giving at the same time I was paying back my student loans. It seemed like the right thing to do.”

The Caynes have helped other students “find a way” by co-chairing the law school’s Scholarship Initiative Committee—along with Lorrie, JD ’68, and Maury, JD ’69, Poscover—and by establishing several endowed scholarships to honor dear friends and to express appreciation for their leadership. These include the Dean Kent Syverud Scholarship, the Professor Michael Greenfield Scholarship, and the David Blasingame Scholarship. The Caynes also established a scholarship in law to celebrate their daughter Elizabeth’s marriage in 2011: the Howard and Caroline Cayne Scholarship in Honor of the Marriage of Max Samuel Rosen, AB ’10, and Elizabeth Cayne Rosen, AB ’11.

In appreciation of the education their daughter, Allison Cayne Burka, AB ’07, received at Washington University, they established the Dolores Pesce and Dan Presgrave Scholarship in Music in Arts & Sciences. Burka’s husband Douglas, AB ’01, is also an alumnus. The Caynes support as many as five annual scholarships a year.

“Those we have honored have shown incredible commitment to the university and its students,” says Caroline Cayne, whose enthusiasm for the university rivals that of her husband. “They are visionaries and set the tone for the future of the university.”

That future, say the Caynes, is destined for greater success. A member of both the university’s Board of Trustees and the Law School National Council, and a campaign committee co-chair for the law school, Howard Cayne, along with co-chair Steven Rappaport, JD ’74, is heading efforts to top a conservative goal of $55 million in resources critical to the school’s success.

“The campaign for Washington University School of Law provides me, and all who have benefited directly from this strong foundation, an opportunity to say thank you while giving back to both our school and to the current generation of students,” Howard Cayne explains.

“Whatever I’ve accomplished in my professional life, I owe to the university and to the law school.”

—Howard Cayne