Ned Lemkemeier, JD ‘62, is the new chair of the National Council for the School of Law. A partner in the international law firm of Bryan Cave, Lemkemeier has a distinguished record of service to Washington University in St. Louis and to the St. Louis community.

The National Council, made up of about 40 alumni and friends of the law school, serves as a sounding board for the School. Lemkemeier, who has served on the National Council since 1989, is the third chair, succeeding William M. Van Cleve, JD ‘53 and the late Donald P. Gallop, JD ’59.

“Bill and Don provided excellent leadership for the National Council. I hope to continue their lead of encouraging member involvement in all aspects of law school life,” Lemkemeier says. “It is important that Council members have the satisfaction of knowing that their service provides a meaningful contribution to the law school and to the University.”

Lemkemeier has served the law school as vice chair for special gifts in the capital campaign Building on Strength (part of the Campaign for Washington University: A Partnership for the 21st Century) and as a member of the Class of 1962 Reunion Gift Committee.

His volunteer efforts have also reached beyond the law school. In 1997–98, he chaired the Alumni Board of Governors.

He is a life member of the William Greenleaf Eliot Society. His contributions have been recognized by the awarding of the 1994 Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Law and the 2000 Founders Day Distinguished Alumni Award from the Washington University Alumni Association.

Lemkemeier has been a generous donor of scholarships. His belief in scholarships arises from their contribution to his own education. He earned his bachelor’s degree at Wesleyan University and completed his first year of law school at the University of Chicago. Family responsibilities then compelled him to return home to St. Louis. He remembers the School of Law in those days as a wonderful place where he was able to find stimulating professors and classmates. “There were only 50 students in our class,” he says, “and when we graduated, most, if not all, began their law practice in Missouri or Illinois.”

Today, School of Law graduates are recruited by firms all over the country. Lemkemeier is pleased by the progress in all areas, particularly faculty, student body, physical plant, and alumni support. “It’s recognized as a first-tier law school in every respect,” he says. “I want to see the School continue on its present course.”

A specialist in labor and employment law, Lemkemeier joined Bryan Cave LLP in 1985. Today he devotes much of his time to the finances and administration of the burgeoning firm. One of the oldest law firms in St. Louis, Bryan Cave is now one of the 25 largest in the world, with approximately 800 lawyers in 18 offices in the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Among his community activities, Lemkemeier serves on the Ladue City Council and on the boards of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, Central Institute for the Deaf, and Siteman Cancer Center. He has found unexpected rewards in the many meetings he attends: “People ask questions or put forward ideas that never would have occurred to me,” he says. “Through these institutions, you make friends with people you otherwise would never have met—and they can energize your life.”

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by David Linzee

Ned Lemkemeier: A New Leader for the National Council

Ned Lemkemeier, JD ’62, a longtime member of the National Council, now chairs this advisory board.