

# CAMPAIGN UPDATE

*Extraordinary Rare Law Book Collection from Professor McKnight Leads Outstanding Year in Giving*

2010-2011 MORE THAN \$15 MILLION IN GIFTS



In a year when unemployment and the deficit made headlines, the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University received more than \$15 million in gifts in its fundraising campaign. These gifts allow the law school to increase its investments in student scholarships, faculty chairs, and exceptional library resources, which are essential to remain competitive and advance the momentum of recent years.

“SMU Dedman Law School is greatly strengthened by the generosity of our alumni, students, faculty, parents, and friends” says Associate Dean for Development and Alumni Affairs Lynn Switzer Bozalis, SMU Dedman Law graduate of 1990. “These gifts are essential investments that create opportunities and make a long-term impact.”

Dean John Attanasio added, “We are very fortunate to have a deep and diverse group of supporters. This year we saw significant gifts from a wide variety of sources ranging from faculty—with Joe McKnight’s gift of his spectacular library of rare law books—to alums and members of the local legal community. It is deeply gratifying to know the law school is valued and sustained by so many.”

The law school continues to experience extraordinary successes that have expanded the school’s national and global reputation. As SMU Dedman emerges into one of the premier legal educational institutions, it is attracting some of the most sought-after students and top-tier faculty from across the country and around the world.

## Professor Joseph McKnight Donates His Extraordinary Rare Law Book Collection to the Law School

Dean John Attanasio announced in December that Professor Joseph McKnight is donating his collection of rare law books to the law school. Believed to be one of the largest contributions ever by a faculty member to a law school, McKnight's collection of more than 6,000 exceptional books is estimated to be valued at \$6-\$7 million.

Professor Joseph McKnight has studied and taught legal history for fifty-five years. Scores of his articles have been published. Dozens of Texas statutes on family and marital property law were written by him. An estimated 10,000 students have taken his classes.

In the words of one colleague, Joe McKnight *is* legal history.

But during the past five decades, Professor McKnight also has become the owner of an extraordinary collection of more than 6,000 rare legal history books – one of the largest of its kind in the nation, which are prominently displayed on the fourth floor of the Underwood Law Library at SMU Dedman School of Law.

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### McKnight's oldest book was published in 1481.

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The oldest book in the collection was published in 1481. Not impressed? Well, Johannes Gutenberg only invented his press four decades earlier.

"This magnificent gift is one of the largest ever given to a law school by one of its professors," Dean Attanasio said to the board members, faculty, and staff who were assembled. "It ranks as one of the top rare book collections in the country. We are extremely honored to be the home of this extraordinary collection and to continue to have Joe

McKnight as a member of the SMU Dedman faculty."

Raised in San Angelo in West Texas, McKnight went to college at the University of Texas. He served for three years in the Navy on a ship providing convoy duty for merchant ships going from New York to Cuba.

In 1947, he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University, where he earned his law degree. He practiced law in New York for four years in the wills, trusts, and estates practice of the nation's second oldest law firm, Cravath, Swaine & Moore.

McKnight remembers being called into Robert Swaine's office one Friday afternoon. "He said that he and all the partners really wanted their associates to have weekends to themselves. But then he told me that he needed a certain document researched and prepared and on his desk by Monday morning. Of course, I spent the weekend at the office and had that document for him first thing Monday morning."

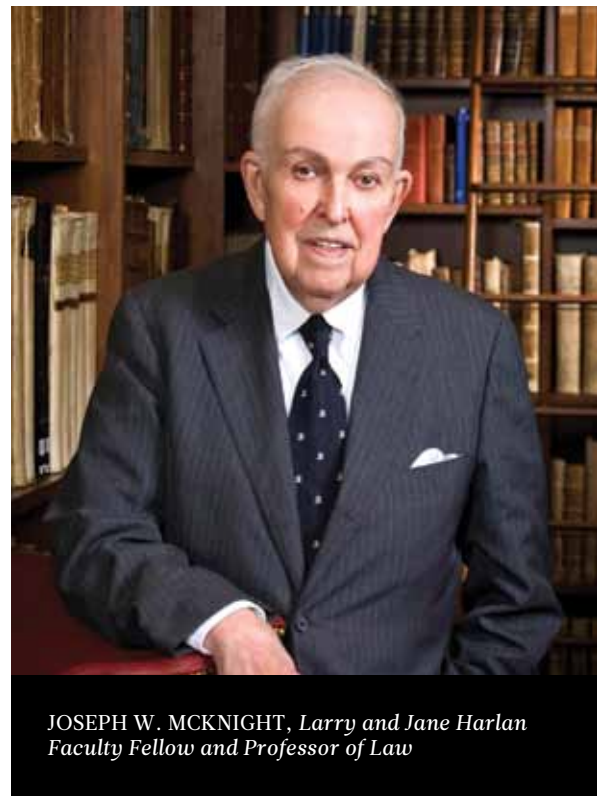
Some things in the practice of law never change, he says.

In 1955, SMU Law Dean Robert Storey offered McKnight a position teaching wills and estate law and legal history. "In the years since, I have taught about every class the law school has offered, except I have never taught contracts, torts, or criminal law," he says.

In his personal library at home, he has a collection of original novels of Cooper and Dickens that belonged to his great-grandfather, who was a member of the Republican Convention in 1860 that nominated Abraham Lincoln to be President.

"I have all the works of Washington Irving, which were purchased by my great-grandfather when they came out in the mid-19th century," he says.

Professor McKnight began purchasing antique law books in earnest in the 1970s, when Inns of Courts and smaller libraries around the country put them up for sale.



JOSEPH W. MCKNIGHT, *Larry and Jane Harlan Faculty Fellow and Professor of Law*

Because there was a greater supply, the books were less expensive.

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"I have all the works of Washington Irving, which were purchased by my great-grandfather when they came out in the mid-19th century."

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He still buys about 25 to 30 rare law books annually, but he says they are much more expensive these days because there are fewer of them available. In the 1980s, while recovering from heart surgery, he learned how books were made and how to restore them.

The McKnight Collection occupies dozens of shelves and is separated by region and country, with the French and Italian collections being the largest.

"I am trying to build up a collection of every book that any legal historian would need, and I only buy books that are of interest to me," he jokes. "At this point, there are not many books that I want that I don't already have – at least not that I



can afford.”

Professor McKnight has put his name and the date he purchased the book on the inside of every book he has ever obtained. The oldest book in his collection is *Lectura Super V Libros Decretalium*, by Niccolo Tudeschis, an Italian Benedictine canonist and teacher who studied the doctrine of superiority of a general council to the Pope. The book was published in 1481 and is an incunabula, which means that it was printed – not handwritten – prior to 1501 and post-Gutenberg.

The collection also includes a German book of legal forms dating back to 1505 and such legal classics as four volumes of Sir William Blackstone’s last corrected edition of his *Commentaries on the Laws of England* (1778) and Sir Edward Coke’s third and last edition of his *Institute of Laws of England* (1633).

“See these very small holes?” Professor McKnight asks, pointing to the pinpoint-sized, perfectly round holes throughout the book. “Book worms lay their eggs inside the books. How the hell they get in there, I have no idea. But then the larvae need to get out and they make the holes.” Even so, the book is in extraordinarily good shape.

Professor McKnight, resting against his cane for a few seconds, suddenly reflects on his fifty-five years teaching at SMU Law. He says that he still loves his work and still has more work to do. He says that the law school “has gotten

much better” over the years. Of course, his colleagues say that is true because of his contributions.

“Joe is the embodiment of SMU Law School,” says Joshua Tate, an Associate Professor who also teaches legal history. “If there is ever any question during faculty meetings about how things were done over the years, everyone turns to Joe for the answer.

“He is a real treasure for the law school,” says Tate.

In November 2009, 287 members of the American Society of Legal History met in Dallas for the first time, and part of the reason was to recognize the works and collection of their colleague, Joe McKnight. Legal historians from Stanford Law, the University of Georgia, and the University of Texas spent an afternoon on a panel discussion entitled “Sources in Law 15th-18th Century Europe: A Panel in Honor of Joe McKnight.”

Students over the years also place Professor McKnight as one of their favorites.

“Joe McKnight is one of those teachers who made an impression on all of us,” said Rep. Lamar Smith, a 1975 graduate of SMU Dedman School of Law and now the chairman of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee. “I congratulate Professor McKnight on a splendid career.”

Professor McKnight received a standing ovation at the SMU Dedman Law School Executive Board meeting in December when his gift was announced.

“There are ways of keeping us around,” McKnight told the audience. “Jeremy Bentham, the founder of the University College London, solved that problem by providing that his skeletal remains be undressed of its skin after his death (in 1832) and it would be dried out and put fully clothed with his hat and put in a nice big box. He is wheeled out for all faculty meetings, as provided in his will.”

“I don’t know if SMU wants my remains in that shape,” said Professor McKnight, while the audience was laughing. “I imagine it could be provided, but I don’t know about state law keeping these things around in boxes. We might want to give it some thought.”

Professor McKnight concluded by saying that he is “very proud” of his collection and honored to give it to the law school library.

“I hope you come by to visit it,” he said, “and I would be glad to show you around.”



## ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP GIFTS

### *Anonymous Donors Make Three Gifts Totaling \$5 Million*

A graduate from the early 1980s announced a \$2 million planned gift that will help endow scholarships and possibly a faculty position. In addition, the law school will create a Distinguished Chair in Jurisprudence and Constitutional Law, thanks to another \$2 million anonymous gift.

“We have a diverse and highly talented faculty whose members are dedicated to teaching,” says Dean Attanasio. “Not only do they hold outstanding academic credentials, but virtually all of them also have had practical experience before entering their teaching careers. Consequently, they provide the invaluable link between the theory of classroom instruction and the reality of legal practice.”

Founded in 1925, SMU Dedman School of Law has more than 12,000 alumni, including lawyers and leaders in every state and in more than 80 countries. Graduates include the general

counsels of some of the world’s largest corporations, justices on supreme courts across the globe, foreign diplomats, and members of the U.S. Congress. Three are chief executive officers of Fortune 50 companies. Five have been named to *Forbes’* annual list of billionaires. And one is chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives’ Judiciary Committee.

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**Multi-million dollar donations  
this year will enable the law  
school to be a magnet for the  
best students and faculty.**

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Alumni who have succeeded financially after leaving SMU Dedman Law help the next generation of lawyers get its start. Another donor this year boosted the school’s ability to award scholarships by giving a generous \$1 million gift. This donor—a long-time public servant who wishes to remain anonymous—has made it possible for highly talented students to attend SMU Dedman School of Law.

“A legal education needs to be

affordable for all qualified students, regardless of means,” says Dean Attanasio. “Many of the gifts of our contributors will fund endowed and annual scholarships to help offset the rising cost of tuition. Scholarship support diversifies the student body—attracting the best students from all backgrounds—and enables new graduates to pursue their careers without struggling to overcome education debt.”



**George  
Bramblett '66  
Gives  
\$500,000  
for Endowed  
Scholarship**

The newly created George and Pedie Bramblett Endowed Scholarship will be a big help. A 1966 graduate of SMU Dedman Law School and co-chair of the law school’s Second Century Campaign, Bramblett has donated \$500,000 for the sole purpose of helping future students.

“When I arrived at SMU, I didn’t know a single person,” says Bramblett, who is

a partner at Haynes and Boone in Dallas and was named Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2001 by the Dallas Bar Association. "All I wanted was an opportunity. I am forever grateful to SMU and only wish I could do more."

Bramblett won the SMU Dedman School of Law's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2001. The law school is grateful for all of Bramblett's gifts of time, talent, and money.

Bramblett also received his bachelor's degree from SMU in 1963. "I was the first in my family to go to college," says Bramblett, who is a member of the law school's Executive Board as well. "I am making this contribution public now in order to encourage others."

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### *Estate of William Hunter '49 Boosts Scholarships with \$250,000 Gift*

SMU Dedman School of Law is grateful for the planning and forethought of William Hunter. Before he passed away in 2009, the 1949 alum provided for a \$250,000 bequest from his estate for the benefit of the law school. Hunter, an oil and gas lawyer with Enserch Exploration, died at the age of 91. In accordance with his desires, the gift will be used for student scholarships.

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### *Anonymous \$100,000 Gift Goes Toward Funding Scholarships*

A generous \$100,000 cash donation was made for funding scholarships. The law school appreciates this anonymous donor for their generosity and looks forward to awarding it to deserving law students.

### *Dallas Bar Foundation Continues its History of Giving with a \$100,000 Donation for the Sarah T. Hughes Scholarship*

The Dallas Bar Foundation donated \$100,000 for the Sarah T. Hughes Annual Scholarship. Since 1981, the DBF has funded full-tuition scholarships for minority students.

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The scholarships serve as a permanent recognition of Judge Hughes' vast contribution to the legal profession, and particularly her efforts toward increased minority involvement.

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The scholarship is named for U.S. District Judge Sarah T. Hughes, the federal judge who gave President Lyndon B. Johnson the presidential oath of office in 1963 aboard Air Force One following the assassination of President Kennedy. Judge Hughes is the only woman to swear in a U.S. President.

The scholarships serve as a permanent recognition of Judge Hughes' vast contribution to the legal profession, and particularly her efforts toward increased minority involvement. A secondary purpose of the scholarships is to attract minority law students to SMU Dedman School of Law in the hope they will remain in Dallas to practice law and become leaders in the community. The full-tuition scholarships are awarded to first-year law students and are renewed for the second and third year under condition of satisfactory academic performance. ■

## **VOLUNTEER SUPPORT**

SMU alumni and friends continue to make the difference through their commitments of time and money. "The law school's Second Century Campaign Steering Committee works diligently on behalf of the law school, and we are grateful for their volunteer spirit," said Dean Attanasio. "They are wonderful ambassadors to the community—whether alumni or non-alumni—representing the SMU Dedman School of Law with pride and confidence. We couldn't ask for a more dedicated and knowledgeable group of supporters."

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Alan Feld '60 continues to provide excellent leadership as the steering committee's Convening Chair, along with Nancy Dedman '04H who serves as Honorary Chair. The hard work of the committee's co-chairs—Marilyn Augur '09H; Ron Barger '81; George Bramblett, Jr. '66; Wayne Watts '80; and Philip Wise '81—has resulted in significant gifts to the school. The school appreciates the involvement of the entire steering committee.



## DEDMAN MATCH

### *Continues to Double Impact of Gifts*

SMU Dedman School of Law remains extremely appreciative of the continued support of the Dedman family, which has demonstrated its commitment to the law school through its extensive history of making gifts as well as matching the gifts of others.

Under the terms of the Dedman Match, 70% of its match will be used for scholarships, while the remaining 30% will be set aside to fund faculty positions. In order to receive the match, University policies require that the gifts be at “endowment levels”: a minimum of \$100,000 for scholarships and \$1 million for faculty positions. These endowment gifts ensure the long-term success of SMU Dedman School of Law and can serve as a lasting tribute as the income they generate over time is used to serve the donor’s purposes.

## MILLION DOLLAR CAMPAIGN DONORS

\$ 6-7 Million	Joe and Mimi McKnight	Rare Law Book Collection
\$ 4 Million	The Noel Family	Judge James Noel Deanship
\$ 2.5 Million	The W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation/ Communities Foundation of Texas	The W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic and Institute
\$ 2 Million	Dr. Helmut Sohmen '66	Sohmen Scholars Program
\$ 2 Million	Anonymous	Endowed Chair or Scholarship
\$ 2 Million	Anonymous	Distinguished Faculty Chair
\$ 1.8 Million	Anonymous	Faculty Chair and Student Scholarship
\$ 1.15 Million	Marshall Cloyd	Frances Spears Cloyd Scholarship; International LL.M. Scholarship
\$ 1 Million	Marilyn Augur	Chief Judge Richard S. Arnold Rule of Law Professorship
\$1 Million	Earl Nye '65	Erle and Alice Nye Endowed Scholarship
\$1 Million	Anonymous	Student Scholarship

## ENDOWMENT GIVING

### *Scholarships*

Gifts of \$900,000 or more generate a named full scholarship; Named partial scholarship endowments start at \$100,000

### *Faculty Positions*

Naming opportunities for endowing faculty positions start at \$1 million; Named Chairs are \$1.5 million; Named Distinguished Chairs are \$2 million+

### *Centers/Institutes*

Named Centers in a particular area of the law start at \$2.5 million; Named Institutes in a particular area of the law start at \$5 million

### *Matching Gifts*

Funds from the Dedman Match may be available to match all or part of endowment gifts

\* This list reflects only those gifts that have been made as part of the Second Century Campaign. SMU Dedman School of Law remains extremely grateful for those gifts that were made before the current campaign.