Historic $35 Million Gift Supports Student Scholarships

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On Dec. 4, Indiana University President Michael A. McRobbie announced a monumental gift to the Indiana University School of Law — Bloomington by distinguished alumnus and devoted Indiana Law supporter Michael S. Maurer, JD'67.

The $35 million gift from Michael and Janie Maurer is designated to provide law student scholarships. The gift also qualifies for matching funds from Indiana University, effectively doubling its impact over time. The School will be known as the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in recognition of the Indianapolis business and community leader’s longtime service and generosity to his alma mater.

Dean Lauren Robel said the historic gift will benefit students for generations to come. “Michael Maurer’s unprecedented gift reflects his deep and longstanding commitment to advancing the excellence of this School,” she said. “I am confident that this gift will help us secure our place in the highest echelon of law schools nationwide.”

“While many gifts are for bricks and mortar, this gift is to students,” Assistant Dean for Admissions Frank Motley said. “And it could not come at a better time or be more appreciated. As a practical matter, we will be better able to continue to attract the very best students to our law school and to compete more effectively with our peer institutions.”

Maurer related the significance of his donation to his relationship with the School of Law. “This gift is special for me because it is an opportunity to say thank you to an institution that made possible the success I have enjoyed in my legal and business career,” he said.

Maurer’s distinguished career as an attorney and entrepreneur includes ventures in cable television, film production, radio broadcasting, newspaper publishing, government service, and banking. He is chairman of the board of IBJ Corp.; owner and publisher of the Indianapolis Business Journal, Court and Commercial Record, and Indiana Lawyer; and chairman of the board for The National Bank of Indianapolis, which he co-founded in 1993.

He has also been a devoted supporter of IU and Indiana Law. His service, loyalty, and leadership earned him a place in the Academy of Law Alumni Fellows in 1996. He received the IU Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 2001, and, in 2007, he received the IU Foundation President’s Medal for his outstanding and sustained support of the IU Foundation and the university. Maurer chaired the Law School’s first and highly successful capital campaign during the 1990s.

A gala celebration and formal renaming ceremony will take place on Sept. 25, 2009.