A Belief that Students Are Ambassadors for the Future Inspired Matthew & Terri Stark to Give

It wasn’t unusual for Matthew Stark to be one of the only guests without a law degree at Law School events. He would show up wearing a button that read “I love lawyers”—a sentiment other attendees assumed to be tongue-in-cheek. Matthew Stark was quick to dispel that notion.

“I am completely serious in wearing this button,” Stark’s wife Terri recalled him saying. “I believe that Americans need to have advocates. We need the voices of attorneys to represent the people who do not have a voice.”

Matthew Stark, who passed away in April 2018, knew through his own storied career the important role lawyers must play in ensuring people receive due process and equal protections under the law. As the leader of the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union (known today as ACLU of Minnesota), he worked tirelessly to champion civil liberties and civil rights for those deprived of them. Through a planned gift to Minnesota Law, Matthew and Terri Stark ensure students and faculty are able to continue this progress into the future.

Continued on page 2
“Matthew believed that students were the ambassadors for the future and for the welfare of our nation,” Terri Stark said. “We need students to rise and become their best so that they can fix our nation and help it flourish.”

During the course of his career, which centered in Minnesota but also included service on the American Civil Liberties Union’s national board, Matthew Stark defended the rights of many who faced discrimination, including women, racial and ethnic minorities, and LGBTQ people. He held up the protections set forth in the U.S. Constitution’s Bill of Rights, emphasizing the separation of church and state, fighting against censorship, and supporting free expression.

Mr. Stark’s work intersected with many historic civil rights moments of the 20th century. He worked with Martin Luther King Jr. on the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. In the 1980s, he fought against the use of American Indians as sports mascots, leading to such mascots removal from Minnesota public schools. He also led the ACLU in filing the first same-sex marriage suit in U.S. history, recognizing at the time that it would be the first step on a long path that would eventually lead to LGBTQ people having the same Constitutional rights and protections as everybody else—a vision he saw come to fruition decades later.

In all aspects of his life, Ms. Stark said, Matthew dedicated himself to the welfare of others. When a native healer honored Mr. Stark for his work advocating on behalf of American Indians, she gave him an Ojibwe name that fittingly translated to “He Who Cares.”

“Matthew was such a humble human being that, although he could take the role of the spotlight and the podium, he was more often just off camera, where he was organizing and inspiring and coalescing and networking with others to move them into what would be their professions, their place in history,” Ms. Stark said.

Despite his appreciation for lawyers, the one thing Mr. Stark never had a chance to do was go to law school himself. The planned gift in his name, however, will help ensure others can do just that, carrying on his legacy advocating for the protection of human rights and allowing Matthew and Terri’s support for this work to extend beyond their lifetimes. Focusing on the big picture, Ms. Stark said, is a fitting way to honor Matthew’s work. It captures the spirit of a phrase he said often toward the end of his life: “You have to have the loooong vision.”

“I believe that Americans need to have advocates. We need the voices of attorneys to represent the people who do not have a voice.” —Matthew Stark

Planned Giving for Future Generations of Lawyer-Leaders

Planned gifts are as varied as the lawyer-leaders who make them. By partnering with Minnesota Law, along with your family and trusted advisors, you can create a plan that reflects your charitable goals, maximizes potential tax benefits, provides financial security for you and your loved ones, and creates a lasting legacy for you that will help the Law School remain a leader worldwide.

Examples of recent planned gifts include:

- A bequest to grow the Dean Carl Auerbach Public Interest Summer Fellowship
- A bequest to grow the Class of 1969 Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Bequests to create a new endowed chair in Business Law and a new endowed professorship in Environmental Law
- A beneficiary designation of retirement assets to grow an existing named diversity scholarship
- A charitable remainder trust beneficiary designation to provide endowed support of a current Law School clinic
- Directing proceeds from a charitable gift annuity to support endowed scholarships
- A life insurance beneficiary designation to provide unrestricted Law School support

To learn more about planned giving and ways you can achieve your philanthropic goals, contact David L. Jensen, Director of Advancement, at djensen@umn.edu or (612) 625-2060.

To give today, visit law.umn.edu/give/planned-giving
Current 3L student Camila Pacheco-Forés came to Minnesota Law with an impressive resume including hands-on experience in migrant rights, immigration, and family law. Prior to Law School, she served as a Fulbright fellow in Mexico City and worked as a paralegal for a legal aid organization in Los Angeles. Her time at Minnesota Law has strengthened her desire to use her education to make a difference for underserved communities after graduation. Pacheco-Forés cites the scholarships she received as instrumental to pursuing a career based on passion instead of paycheck.

“Scholarship support has been huge for me,” says Pacheco-Forés. “I would not have gone to law school without the financial aid I received. It provides the freedom to choose a career that wouldn’t have been possible with a mountain of student loans. I can think and dream bigger for my career, which is really exciting.”

Fighting for Equity in Immigration Law

“Volunteering with my parents as an interpreter at an asylum clinic sparked my interest in a career in immigration law. As I’ve studied and learned more, I realized that it’s the combination of person-to-person relationships, paired with tackling interesting legal puzzles and finding how your client’s situation fits with the law that I really enjoy,” explains Pacheco-Forés. Through experiences and mentorships with attorneys who work in the field, she truly got excited about becoming a lawyer who is compassionate and client-focused.

Pacheco-Forés’ passion for immigration law also stems from her family heritage. Her father is a Venezuelan immigrant and her mother’s family fled as refugees from Cuba. “My grandfather was a lawyer in Cuba for a short time before my family fled to the United States. He never got to be a lawyer here in the U.S., but now I can carry on his legacy,” says Pacheco-Forés. While her family faced some challenges as immigrants, she feels that her family truly benefited from U.S. immigration laws. But Pacheco-Forés shares that not everyone who is seeking a better life through immigration is so lucky. Out of gratitude, Pacheco-Forés feels called to work in public interest immigration law, advocating to make the immigration system more fair and equitable.

The Power of Scholarship Support

Pacheco-Forés explains, “Being a queer woman of color, I know that I’m not well-represented in the legal profession. Having a scholarship not only helps me financially to have some footing when I graduate, but it also helps me feel like I really belong here and that people want me here. Providing scholarships for people who have been underrepresented is not only practically important, but it’s also symbolically important. It shows people that they are valued and they have something to bring to this profession.”

PLANNED GIVING TIP:
You can support students like Camila by including a gift to the University of Minnesota Law School in your will or trust, known as a charitable bequest. This is a meaningful way to support future Minnesota Law students. Gifts of any size benefit our students, faculty, and programs, and help to sustain and strengthen the Law School for many years to come. You can choose to give the University a specific dollar amount, specific property, or a percentage of what remains after you have provided for your loved ones. You can also experience tax-saving benefits by naming the Law School as a beneficiary in some of your retirement assets.
Join the 1888 Society with a Legacy Gift

The 1888 Society celebrates the founding of the University of Minnesota Law School in 1888 and the future of the Law School made possible by the generous individuals who have created a lasting legacy by including the Law School in their estate or financial plans. The Law School will recognize your planned gift through enrollment in our 1888 Society, the University of Minnesota’s Heritage Society, and recognition at the Law School and in various published materials.

For further information on planned giving, contact:
David L. Jensen
Director of Advancement
University of Minnesota Law School
dljensen@umn.edu or (612) 625-2060

I was able to attend Minnesota Law because of the generosity of those who provided scholarship funds. Their financial gifts opened doors to opportunities that would not otherwise have been available to me. It’s my turn to open doors to others’ dreams.

—JEANNINE LEE ’81
Binger Circle, William B. Lockhart Club

Driven. The Campaign for the University of Minnesota Law School
When you document your gift by June 30, 2021, your gift will be included in our historic Driven to Lead campaign.