

Letter from the Alumni President



Dear Brother and Sister Alumni:

Since my last letter, our patriarchal president, Thomas Brennan, stepped down (warm wishes, sir, on your retirement) and our long time dean, Don LeDuc, has taken over as the head of our law school family. Welcome, President LeDuc! The alumni of this fine school are anxious to work with you. Just as you have stepped up to the challenge of shepherding our law school through its next phase, we, too, are ready to assume more responsibility for the fiscal health and well-being of our school. Why do we want to do this? Because Cooley alumni care ... and we take care of our own.

To this end, would you consider helping a Cooley student who needs financial assistance in paying for law classes or in buying the must-have bar review course? The Alumni Association has a Memorial Scholarship that it awards to a student who has financial need. The funds come from the annual golf outing. This year's golf event is on July 13, 2002, at Wheatfield near Williamston. (Plan on joining us! Details are in this issue of *Benchmark*.) But that is one scholarship, for one term, for one student. By making the law school the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or the beneficiary of a gift in your will, you can assist financially strapped students in completing their education and study for the bar. Why do this? Because Cooley alumni care ... and we take care of our own.

One of the issues that has been raised again and again by the American Bar Association during their regular accreditation review of our school is the woeful fact that we do not have a planned giving program that assists financially needy students.

If you would like to help Cooley students, as you are reviewing your financial situation, please keep the following in mind:

1. After taking care of your family and loved ones through your will, you can help take care of the future of our law school by leaving a portion of your estate to the law school to assist financially needy students.
2. You may choose to make Thomas M. Cooley Law School the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. The funds can be designated to assist financially needy students.

You could name the law school as the first, second, or last beneficiary for part or all of the proceeds of an existing life insurance policy. You can add our law school as a beneficiary simply by requesting a change-in-beneficiary form from the insurance company. You can receive tax benefits when giving old or new insurance policies.

To the left is a sample letter to use to contact your insurance company:

If you would like to confidentially discuss planned giving in more detail, including giving to our law school

Name of Insurance Company _____
Street _____
City, State, Zip _____
Refer to Policy # _____

Please send me the necessary papers to make a charitable gift of life insurance benefits to the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Service rules. I would like to name the Thomas M. Cooley Law School as:

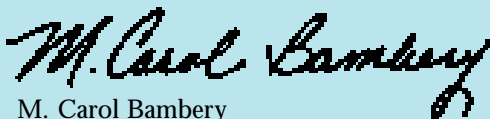
Primary beneficiary
 Secondary beneficiary
 Final beneficiary
 For a percent of the proceeds
 I would like to transfer policy ownership to Thomas M. Cooley Law School as the irrevocable owner and beneficiary.

Signed, _____
Name of Policyholder

through your will, please call me at (517) 669-9769 or send me a letter addressed to M. Carol Bambery, President, Board of Governors Alumni Association, c/o Thomas M. Cooley Law School, 300 South Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933. We work with qualified estate planning professionals.

Why do this? Because Cooley alumni care ... and we take care of our own.

Warm regards,


M. Carol Bambery

P.S. Yes, I have followed my own advice!