

Business and Transactional Law Center Receives \$1 Million Gift

Norman Pozez '80 recently established the Norman R. Pozez Chair in the Business and Transactional Law Center at Washburn University School of Law. The \$1 million gift by Pozez was announced Dec. 7, 2005, by Dennis R. Honabach, Dean, Washburn University School of Law and Dr. Jerry Farley, President, Washburn University, in the Robinson Courtroom and Bianchino Technology Center at Washburn Law.



The law center chair will permit the law school to attract an additional expert in the field of transactional law to the faculty of Washburn Law.

“The mission of the Business and Transactional Law Center at Washburn University School of Law is to provide today’s law students with the analytical tools they will need to succeed as problem solvers, especially in the fields of business and commerce. It is our expectation that students who participate in the Center’s activities will distinguish themselves as transactional lawyers and as law-trained leaders in all fields of commerce,” said Dean Honabach.

Pozez knew when he entered law school that his future endeavors would lie in the field of business and not in the practice of law. He also realized that a law school education would provide him the best analytical training available. Pozez has since learned how meaningful his legal education has been in his career.

“It has been a tremendous help in the

success of my business,” stated Pozez, who has compiled a record of considerable success in many fields of business.

In making this gift, Pozez believed it was important to offer students a program that focuses on negotiation and deal making, not just litigation, and the Business and Transactional Law Center does just that.

“This gift will help further facilitate that goal,” said Pozez. Pozez agreed to become a member of the founding Board of Advisors for the Business and Transactional Law Center and his advice in that capacity will prove invaluable to the Center.

The success of the Center’s programs is dependent upon the School of Law’s ability to bring together the best, most accomplished legal scholars in the field of transactional law and the best and brightest students who become the leading problem solvers of the next generation. Pozez realized that to achieve that goal, the Business and Transactional Law Center would require an infusion of new resources. Pozez stepped up and provided a lead gift for that purpose. Pozez has always been a generous supporter of the School of Law through his philanthropic gifts to the Norman R. Pozez Unrestricted Endowed Fund.



Dr. Jerry Farley and Dean Dennis R. Honabach

“I wanted to show my continued support for Washburn University School of Law and the impact that my legal education and the law school has had on my life,” said Pozez.

Washburn Law is eternally grateful to Pozez for this newly created chair. This gift comes at a most opportune time as the entire Washburn Law community is in the midst of the law school’s Centennial Celebration.

Pozez is a native of Topeka who now lives in Washington, D.C. He is Chairman of the Uniwest Group, LLC, Uniwest Construction, Inc., Uniwest Commercial Realty, Inc, and Uniwest1031, LLC. Previously, he was the Chief Operating Officer of The Hair Cuttery, Falls Church, Va., and is currently on the firm’s Board of Advisers. From early 2004 to early 2005, Pozez served as Chairman of the Board of

Fidelity and Trust Corporation. He has also served as a Regional Director of Real Estate and Construction for Payless ShoeSource, a retail company founded by his father, Louis Pozez. During his tenure at Payless and for some years thereafter, Norm Pozez served on the board of directors of Bookstop, Inc., which sold to Barnes and Noble in 1989. Since 1979, Pozez has been an active member of the International Council of Shopping Centers and is a board member of five not-for-profit organizations serving community needs in and around the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. He and his wife, Melinda, have three sons.