"After our first year offering a named scholarship for USD School of Law, we have noticed an increase in awareness of our firm among students and recent graduates.

This puts us in a stronger position as we recruit and grow in the community. We have always had a mutually beneficial relationship with the school, but now we feel even more like a partner. We’re here in the San Diego community for the long-term, and participating in the named scholarship program allows us to shape and steer our future legal community.”

– Ronson J. Shamoun ’98 (BA), ’02 (JD), ’03 (LLM)

“I am so thankful that the scholarships I received allowed me to focus on my goals rather than solely making ends meet.”

- Sarah E. Orloff ’16

Leading Change - The Campaign for USD has heightened the law school’s focus on providing multi-year scholarships to ensure that qualified students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to come to USD School of Law and graduate without excessive debt burdens that limit their opportunities to pursue the legal careers of their choosing.
Background
USD School of Law offers a variety of scholarships based on merit to entering students. Students with strong academic backgrounds, outstanding professional or extracurricular achievements, financial need and significant undergraduate cumulative GPAs and LSAT scores are automatically considered for these entering awards. Scholarship awards range from $5,000 to approximately 85% tuition. USD School of Law offers both one-year, as well as renewable scholarships. Currently, more than $12,000,000 is spent annually on scholarships and over 70% of USD students receive financial support.

USD School of Law Named Scholarships
Each year, USD School of Law awards more than 75 privately-funded named scholarships to continuing students in both the full-time and part-time programs. The criteria and amount of money awarded for these scholarships vary due to the amount of funding and endowment earnings, as well as donors’ preferences and restrictions. These scholarships are critical to the recruitment and retention of outstanding students and are carefully coordinated with other financial aid. Named scholarships are typically awarded to students for academic performance, leadership and/or need, though many have other criteria designated by the donor.

Campaign for Additional Named Scholarships
As part of USD’s Comprehensive Campaign, now in its public phase, the law school aims to have 100 named scholarships. Scholarship funds enable the law school to remain competitive in the recruitment and retention of a highly-qualified and diverse student body. By recruiting strong leaders, we invest in the future of our law school and build upon the strong reputation of USD School of Law.

It’s Easy! How the Named Scholarship Works
Prospective named scholarship donors should initially meet with Debbie Rider, Director of Development, to:

- Learn the many benefits of the named scholarship program
- Identify potential objectives of scholarship – consider what you would like to accomplish with the scholarship; decide whether the scholarship should be need and/or merit based
- Match the donation to our current recruiting or retention needs ($5,000 minimum to establish a named scholarship)
- Celebrate your newly established award and meet your student recipient at USD’s annual Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon

Benefits for Firms and Companies
Once awards are made, donors will receive a series of benefits throughout the year, including:

- Firm recognition on USD promotional materials, including law school website, electronic boards, donor honor roll, and donor impact report
- Name recognition among current law students and alumni
- Tax benefits — funding a scholarship as a marketing tool for your firm may be tax deductible as a business expense

Our message to individuals, as well as local and regional law firms, considering funding a named scholarship is “Try it!”
We believe you will see the multiple benefits of the program, including increased marketing visibility, community recognition for leadership and enhanced opportunities for you to recruit top law students.

Examples of Named Scholarships Include:

Blanchard, Krasner & French Scholarship
Three scholarships are awarded to continuing law students who demonstrate financial need.

David S. Casey Trial Advocacy Scholarship
Two scholarships will be awarded to students showing promise in trial advocacy through achievements in connection with the Mock Trial Team, distinction in class work related to trial advocacy, or other such indicia of promise.

Gomez Trial Attorneys Scholarship
This annual scholarship is awarded to a law student who is a member of the LGBT community or has demonstrated a commitment to the LGBT community. The scholarship is awarded to a student who has demonstrated financial need and is in good academic standing.

Higgs, Fletcher, and Mack LLP Diversity Scholarship
This scholarship is awarded to a student who has a demonstrated commitment to serving diverse communities. The scholarship supports the firm’s efforts to promote diversity in the San Diego legal community and will be provided to a third (or fourth) year law student.

Ronson J. Shamoun, RJS LAW Scholarship
This scholarship is awarded to one or more student(s) each academic year who have graduated in good standing from USD School of Law and who have been accepted to its graduate program in tax. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide scholarship support for a USD law school graduate who wishes to pursue an LLM degree in tax.

Roseann Gerold Hoffman Endowed Scholarship
Created in memory of his wife, Judge Herbert Hoffman established this scholarship that will be awarded to a full-time law student, who demonstrates strong moral character and financial need.

The Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves and Savitch Tax Scholarship
This scholarship is given to LLM students and is based on the merits of the applicant’s scholastic and professional experience, as demonstrated by the contents of the applicant’s admission file.