



Making a Difference

A GIFT PLANNING PUBLICATION OF **HARVARD LAW SCHOOL**

A Golden Opportunity: Opening Doors with Financial Aid

The roots of a rich campus culture and legal profession lie in the range of lived experiences represented within our student body, through which new ideas, approaches, and breakthroughs thrive. To be able to fully understand and apply the law, we need all perspectives to examine it. Harvard Law School is committed to welcoming the most brilliant, qualified candidates to our community and fostering their potential to the fullest while they are here. Financial aid is instrumental to this growth, and for many prospective students, it is the beacon of a brighter future. The generous donors who believe in the promise of these students and the world they will shape are a huge part of its—and our—success.

Two years ago, the Law School announced one of its most expansive financial aid initiatives yet: the Opportunity Fund, a program dedicated to supporting students who face the most significant financial challenges to pursuing their legal education at HLS. Its goal is to enable these students to attend tuition-free



LORIN GRANGER

and to supplement the traditional financial aid package where needed. Particularly as the Law School saw increased need in the most recent matriculating class, we are proud to have already welcomed two cohorts under the auspices of the Opportunity Fund, with a total of almost fifty beneficiaries.

And just as the Opportunity Fund is intended to create a more inclusive program for students from all financial backgrounds, HLS has made it possible for anyone interested in donating to the Opportunity Fund to do so in the way that best suits their unique situation, whether through the establishment of an endowed fund or through a gift to either the Opportunity Fund's endowment group fund or current-use group fund. Together, we can ensure that the Opportunity Fund remains a sustainable permanent resource.

There are many other ways to invest in financial aid at HLS, with both endowed and current-use opportunities. Named scholarship funds—which can be directed to support J.D. or LL.M. students—provide an enduring



MARTHA STEWART

impact and help to form the foundation of the Law School's need-based aid program. Donors can also support students with a contribution at any level to the General Scholarship Fund, a current-use resource that provides immediate financial aid assistance to J.D. students each year.

However you may choose to give, know that you are changing lives and the scope of what is possible for students who seek to defend justice, champion equality, and use their education to uplift people and communities the world over. Your contribution does

not end at Harvard Law School but rather continues throughout the lives of our graduates and touches all who benefit from their advocacy. ■

Connect with Us

To learn more about ways you can support financial aid and the Opportunity Fund, return the enclosed card or contact:

plannedgiving@law.harvard.edu | 617-496-9265

Fall Reunion 2025



JOHN GILLOOLY

On Saturday, Harvard Provost and Dane Professor of Law John F. Manning '85 joined John Goldberg, the Morgan and Helen Chu Dean and Professor of Law at HLS, for a conversation as alumni enjoyed lunch.



JOHN GILLOOLY

In celebration of their 45th Reunion, members of the Class of 1980 gathered on the steps of Langdell Library for a group photo.

There is no season more picturesque to return to campus than autumn, and there is certainly no better chance to see old friends than at Reunion. Set against the backdrop of a new academic year, Harvard Law School welcomed alumni from the classes of 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, and 1990 back for a weekend of conversation and connection this past fall. Over Reunion Weekend, alumni were able to revisit familiar places, engage with the Law School of today, and strengthen the bonds they formed at HLS.

Fall Reunion 2025 officially commenced on Friday as alumni stepped back into the classroom alongside current students. With courses like Copyright Law, Torts, and International Environmental Law available, Class Visitations allowed alumni to experience firsthand the ways legal education continues to evolve. A panel on estate planning, organized by HLS Director of Planned Giving Charlize Gordy, was also available Friday morning. (For more on the content of this presentation, reach out to plannedgiving@law.harvard.edu.)

At the Reunion Luncheon, the Harvard Law School Association honored Harvard Provost and Dane Professor of Law John F. Manning '85 for his years of leadership and consummate service to Harvard. Afterwards, Provost Manning sat down with John Goldberg, the Morgan and Helen Chu Dean and Professor of Law at HLS, for an illuminating Fireside Conversation, where they discussed how they have prioritized fostering a culture of open inquiry, mutual

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A Gift to Harvard Law School in Your Will, Trust, and IRA

Many alumni and friends of Harvard Law School have found giving through their will, testamentary trust, and IRA highly effective ways to accomplish their planning and to help the Law School and its mission at the same time.

When planning your estate, you'll identify your primary objectives and the assets available to accomplish them. You can decide exactly how you want your estate distributed to heirs and to charity. If you are planning on making charitable gifts in these three areas, you should use appropriate language.

The first step in planning your will or trust is to decide which gifts you will make during your lifetime and what you will give through your will, trust, and IRA. In certain cases, lifetime gifts can achieve your objectives more effectively than a gift in the future. Lifetime gifts can result in useful charitable deductions and reduce the size of your estate potentially subject to estate taxes. Be sure to consult your advisors.

Should a Gift Be a Specific Dollar Amount or a Percentage?

Leaving a percentage of the value of your estate to your designated beneficiaries and Harvard Law School can sometimes be the best way to carry out your objectives, because each beneficiary will share in increases or decreases in the value of your estate. You may wish to leave a specific dollar amount if you would like to set up an endowed scholarship fund or a professorship, both of which have fund minimums. Please contact HLS Planned Giving if you would like to discuss this.

Which Assets Pass Under Your Will or Trust?

Life insurance proceeds, as well as IRA and retirement plan death benefits payable to designated beneficiaries, generally will pass independently of your will or trust and will be included in your gross taxable estate for determining potential estate taxes. You may receive estate tax charitable deductions for this planning as well.

Flexibility Matters

An important feature of wills, living trusts, and IRAs is their flexibility. Throughout your lifetime, if you need to make changes or adjustments, you can. This means that your assets always remain available to you to meet current needs.

Recommended Language

To include Harvard Law School in your will and IRA, please use the following language:

I give (___ dollars/ __ percentage/ or all of the residue of my estate, trust, IRA) to the President and Fellows of Harvard College, a Massachusetts educational, charitable corporation, for the benefit of Harvard Law School and for [its general and unrestricted purposes, or, e.g., an endowed scholarship fund].

Fund a Gift Annuity from your IRA

If you are 70.5 years of age or older, you can contribute up to \$55,000 (in 2026) from your IRA for a one-time gift to Harvard Law School in exchange for a charitable gift annuity, which will pay you and another person an income for your lifetimes. Two people can each contribute up to \$55,000 from separately owned IRAs for a total of \$110,000 and benefit each other. The gift can count toward your required minimum distribution and will count as part of your qualified charitable distribution limit for 2026.

Sample One-Life Gift Annuity Rates

Age	71	75	80	85	90
Rate	6.5%	7.2%	8.3%	9.4%	10%

Sample Two-Life Gift Annuity Rates

Age	71, 71	75, 75	80, 80	85, 85	90, 90
Rate	5.7%	6.3%	7.1%	8.3%	9.6%

Accomplish Important Goals with a Gift of Real Estate

For many people, real estate may represent a large portion of their wealth, whether it's a home, vacation home, rental property, undeveloped land, or even a farm or ranch. If you own real estate that qualifies as long-term capital gain property, it's important to be aware of unique planning opportunities that can provide meaningful benefits today or in the future.

Real estate can be used creatively in your philanthropic planning. For example, it is possible to make a gift of real estate that also provides a lifetime income for you, or to give property and retain the right to use it during your lifetime. If you hold real estate you no longer want to own or maintain, this is a gift option worth exploring, as it can play an important role in your overall planning and help you accomplish present and future goals. We encourage you to contact us if you would like to discuss opportunities to give with real estate and help Harvard Law School deliver the highest quality legal education to its students.

Consider a Gift of Real Estate

Two significant advantages of making a gift of real estate are the potential charitable income tax deduction and the avoidance of capital gains taxes. When you make a charitable gift of real estate held over one year to a qualified charity, no capital gains tax is due, and you may qualify for a charitable income tax deduction based on the fair market value of the property on the date of the gift.

As you consider how a gift of real estate might fit in your plans, ask yourself these questions:

- Is your house or property more than you need at this point, and would downsizing make sense?
- Would the sale of your property result in substantial capital gains tax?
- Are you considering moving to a different state?
- Are you facing a business or career transition where property ownership is a consideration?
- Do you no longer want to maintain and pay taxes on your property?

If you answered "Yes" to one or more of them, you might want to consider the tax and financial advantages of a gift of real estate to Harvard Law School.

Maximize Your Tax Deduction through an Outright Gift

An outright charitable gift of real estate may entitle you to an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the property as determined by a qualified appraisal. You also avoid potential capital gains taxes that would have been owed if you sold the property instead.

Fund a Life Income Gift with Real Estate

For many years, Bev (age 80) has wanted to make a legacy gift to Harvard Law School. Nonetheless, she is mindful of the need to retain assets to supplement her income and protect herself financially during her retirement years. She owns a small lakefront vacation home in New Hampshire that she purchased decades ago, but neither of her children (both in their 50s) is interested in owning the property. A gift of this second home to Harvard Law School can provide a way for Bev to make a legacy gift and meet her own needs.

Under an arrangement with Harvard Law School, in exchange for the gift of Bev's vacation home, we agree to set up a charitable remainder trust (CRT) that will pay Bev an annual income based on a percentage of the trust's annual value. The gift also qualifies for a charitable deduction based on the projected value of her gift to HLS.*

When you donate real estate through a CRT, the trustee sells the property without incurring immediate capital gains tax, and your gift qualifies for a partial charitable income tax deduction. The trustee invests the proceeds to create income for you and/or other trust beneficiaries for life (or for a specified period of up to 20 years). When the trust term ends, the remaining assets are distributed to Harvard Law School.

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Fall Reunion 2025

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respect, and constructive dialogue both at the Law School and throughout the entire University. Provost Manning reflected on how his many roles over 43 years associated with Harvard have shaped his approach to his work as provost.

Friday afternoon's programming was headlined by a series of Concurrent Sessions that addressed both the realities and responsibilities of a career in law. Faculty members and alumni led discussions on recent legal developments, artificial intelligence's implications for the law, professional well-being, and the impact of HLS clinics. Later, Class Conversations offered a space for alumni to share stories from their careers and personal lives. Friday evening's Welcome Back Evening Reception then brought all the classes back together for a fun, festive night of music, refreshments, and lively conversation.



HLS welcomed back nearly 500 alumni and friends for a joyful weekend full of reconnection.

Gift of Real Estate

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A CRT is flexible. It lets you:

- provide income for one or more persons
- receive a trust payout percentage between 5% and 6% per year
- determine a payment schedule (for example, quarterly or annual payments)

Harvard will provide the trust document at no charge for you to review with your counsel. If Harvard serves as the trustee, it does not charge trustee or administrative fees. ■



Mark Wu, Henry L. Stimson Professor of Law, and Katherine C. Tai '01, former U.S. Trade Representative, led a discussion on "Tariffs and Global Trade: Navigating a Shifting World Order."

Saturday's festivities opened with breakfast and additional concurrent sessions before alumni headed to the Ames Courtroom in Austin Hall for A Conversation with the Dean. Dean Goldberg offered insight into his background, the Law School's priorities, academic innovation, and the tremendous work of students and faculty. Immediately following the conversation, keynote speaker Senator Mark R. Warner '80 presented at the Saturday Luncheon.

After Class Photos, alumni gathered with their classmates in Class Symposia to hear from panels of their peers and participate in illuminating discussions, each with its own unique theme. The weekend concluded with Class Cocktail Receptions and Dinners at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston on Saturday night, plus a Sunday morning Celebration of Life and Farewell Breakfast that offered one final opportunity for reflection and remembrance.

As alumni departed, they took home with them renewed connections—with one another and with the Law School itself. As Steven Oliveira, Associate Dean and Dean for Development and Alumni Relations, wrote in a welcome letter to alumni, "Although your surroundings may have changed in the years since you graduated, and even since your last Reunion, the core of Harvard Law School remains the same." HLS is built to adapt, but at its heart remains an enduring commitment to instilling a reverence for the law and fostering a global community of passionate individuals who can change the world. Reunions continue to bridge the gaps between generations and honor the classes that have helped shape the Law School. ■



JOHN GILLOOLY

Last September, over 750 alumni and friends came back to the campus for the fifth Celebration of Black Alumni (CBA), featuring close to 100 speakers and panelists. In addition to formal programming, the alumni-funded weekend offered all Harvard Law School community members an opportunity to gather socially and to connect with peers across generations, legal specialties, and career paths. This volunteer-driven event was a reminder of the strength of the global alumni community and its contributions to the law.

With Gratitude and Appreciation A Special Edition Marking the End of a Meaningful Career with Lasting Impact

For over 15 years, working with the Director of Planned Giving Charlize S. Gordy and the HLS Donor Relations and Development Communications Department, it has been my privilege to play a role in coordinating the production of the Harvard Law School *Making a Difference* Planned Giving Newsletter. Seeing the final printed publication that tells the stories of what is happening at HLS and the distinct value of planned giving is its own reward. My best wishes to everyone.

—Maureen T. Stephens



HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

For more information about HLS programs and initiatives, please visit the HLS Alumni website at:
<https://hls.harvard.edu/alumni/>

For more information about planned giving, contact:

Charlize Suzanne Gordy, J.D.

Director, Planned Giving
617-496-9265
plannedgiving@law.harvard.edu

Harvard Law School Alumni Center

1563 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
plannedgiving@law.harvard.edu

VISIT: <https://hls.harvard.edu/alumni/giving-to-hls/planned-giving/>

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