

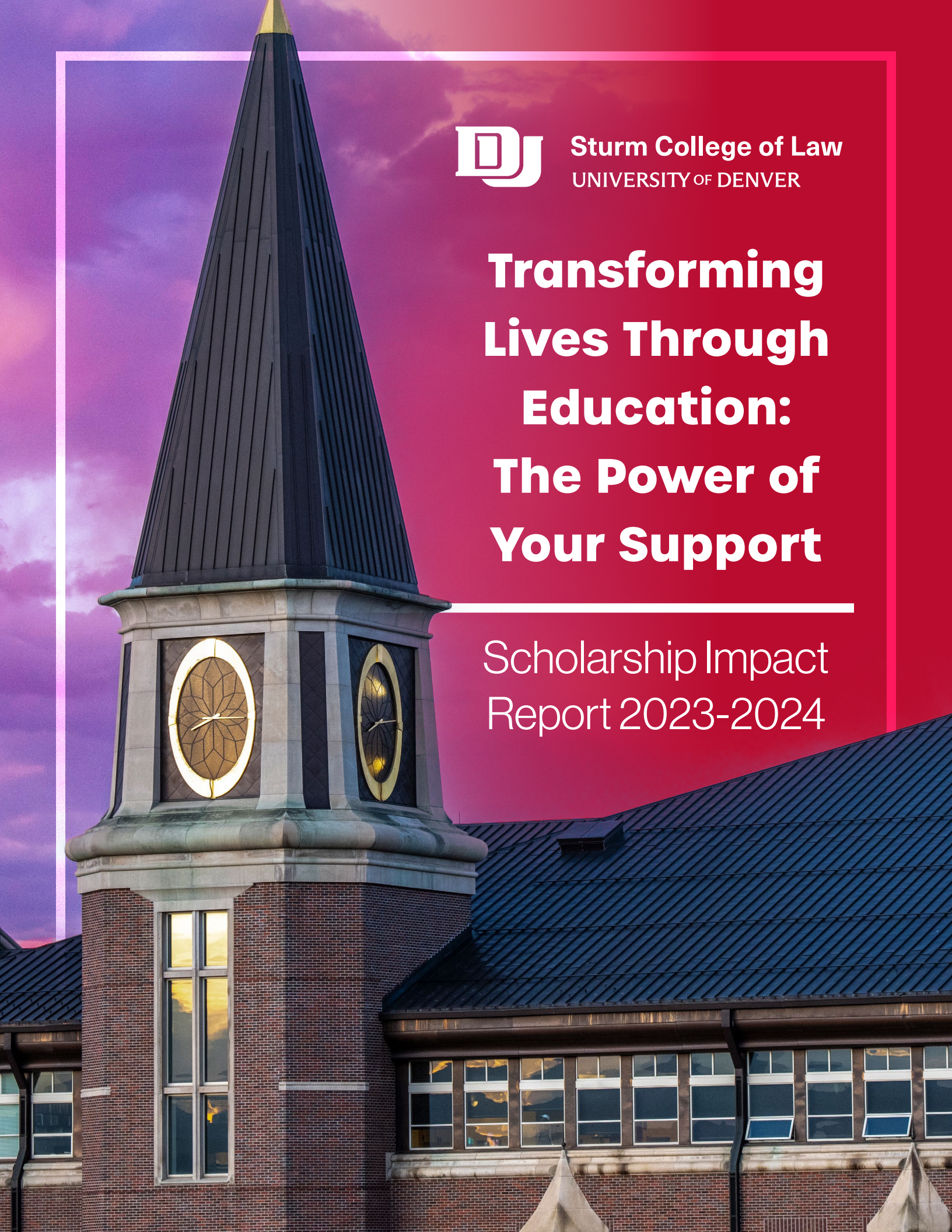


**Sturm College of Law**  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

# **Transforming Lives Through Education: The Power of Your Support**

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Scholarship Impact  
Report 2023-2024



From its inception, the Sturm College of Law has been dedicated to making legal education accessible for future legal professionals. Your scholarship contributions to the Sturm College of Law make a difference in our success and in the lives of our students. Your support enables students to focus on their academic work and make their law school and legal career dreams a reality. Every day, we see how your philanthropy provides students with transformative experiences. It is this support that allows us to sustain our outstanding work and continue our legacy of excellence.

**Thank you for  
your continued  
generosity.**

## By the Numbers

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**\$2.8 million**  
Scholarship donations  
in FY24

**172**  
Donors

**74%**  
Students received  
scholarship support

**\$17,250 to Full  
Tuition + Stipend**  
Scholarship range



# Scholar Testimonials

## What would you like to share with your scholarship benefactor(s)?

With your generosity I was accepted into the Greater Colorado Law Student Experience this past summer. During this time, I assisted courts across Colorado's judicial districts in navigating new legislation to build new competency courts. I also aided Colorado Legal Services in their housing program, preventing people from being evicted from their homes, and I was rewarded with a Pro Bono Achievement award for this work. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to help serve communities in our state, it is truly a privilege and a blessing.



**Dominika Kamionka**  
Colorado Springs, Colorado  
Expected Graduation: 2026



**Ashley Crist**  
St. George, Utah  
Expected Graduation: 2027

## How did receiving scholarship support impact your decision to attend the Sturm College of Law, in addition to reducing the cost?

As a first-generation college student with parents with disabilities, receiving scholarships to support my law school endeavors was pivotal in my ability to attend the Sturm College of Law. Without this generous support, my goal of becoming a lawyer would not be possible. Through no fault of their own, my parents have struggled to support me throughout my life, which, at an early age, led me to develop the skills to manage much of life on my own. However, it is not lost on me that I could not manage the financial burden of law school on my own, and I am deeply grateful for every dollar of support I have received from the Sturm College of Law and its altruistic benefactors.

## What led you to pursue your degree program, and why did you choose the Sturm College of Law?

I chose to pursue a law degree because of my passion for sports. My dream is to become the best agent for professional athletes. I chose the University of Denver because of its competitive and excellent reputation, the rich sports history in the city of Denver, and the vast array of opportunities available at the university.



**Alexa Gibb**  
Lone Tree, Colorado  
Expected Graduation: 2028



**Alejandro Pericoli**  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Expected Graduation: 2027  
Master of Taxation

**What led you to pursue your degree program, and why did you choose the Sturm College of Law?**

Gaining deeper knowledge of U.S. tax law inspired me to pursue a master's in taxation. I believe this program will equip me with the tools needed to advance my career as a tax professional. I chose the Sturm College of Law because of its prestigious reputation. The master's in taxation program is consistently ranked among the best in the country.

**How did receiving scholarship support impact your decision to attend the Sturm College of Law, in addition to reducing the cost?**

The scholarship I received played a pivotal role in my decision to attend the Sturm College of Law. It not only alleviated financial concerns but also demonstrated the university's commitment to considering diverse contexts beyond just monetary factors. The scholarship, awarded in recognition of my academic excellence, affirmed that my studies in Argentina were valued and appreciated. This acknowledgment reinforced my belief that the Sturm College of Law values and supports students with strong academic backgrounds, making it the ideal place for me to further my education and achieve my career aspirations.

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**What led you to pursue your degree program, and why did you choose the Sturm College of Law?**

I decided to pursue a JD after working in several nonprofits and observing the inequities non-English speakers faced in the legal system and seeing the vital role that lawyers can have in helping their clients overcome those inequities. I chose to attend the University of Denver because of the law school's emphasis on experiential learning, which provides valuable opportunities to work in public service law while earning my JD. I was particularly excited about the Immigration Law and Policy Clinic, which would give me the opportunity to work with clients first-hand as they navigate removal proceedings.



**Toree Lindblad**  
Columbus, Nebraska  
Expected Graduation: 2025



**Samantha Duvall**  
Gwinn, Michigan  
Expected Graduation: 2025

**How has this scholarship impacted you in your personal or academic life?**

This scholarship has alleviated a substantial amount of stress from my personal and academic life. As a first-generation law student, who has come from a lower-income background, I have always had to find a balance between school and working to pay for my education. This scholarship has made it possible for me to reduce the number of hours I work during the school year, so that I can focus more on my education. This has also benefited my personal life because instead of going from school to work, I can take days off to explore all that Colorado has to offer.

### **What has been your favorite experience at DU?**

What I have liked most about DU are all the connections I have made with students, faculty, and community members. One connection I would like to highlight is my mentor who I connected with through DU Law's Professional Mentorship Program, which offers DU law students the opportunity to develop a professional relationship with a mentor. Knowing how important professional relationships are, I immediately signed up for the program at the beginning of my 1L year. After expressing interest in corporate law, real estate, and land use, I was connected to a land use attorney. We hit it off immediately and have stayed in regular communication. She invites me to all sorts of networking and industry events, introducing me to members of the Denver legal community. This helps me understand what life as an attorney is like and allows me to continue building my professional network.



**Katelin Edwards**  
Denver, Colorado  
Expected Graduation: 2025



**Anna Lodge**  
Denver, Colorado  
Expected Graduation: 2025

### **What has been your favorite experience at DU?**

As a first-generation American who loves learning, settling for one is tricky. Though some days (and classes) are more challenging than others, I am grateful to learn from brilliant professors who are experts in their fields, colleagues who are kind and interesting, and faculty who are equally fascinating. I am also grateful for every opportunity to meet with the dean and professors outside of class. As a Legal Research & Writing Teaching Assistant, it is fulfilling to provide a helping hand to the first-year students whose position I was in last year. Working in the Wills Lab under a Supervising Attorney and directly with real clients has been invaluable for helping me translate what I'm learning in the classroom into practical legal skills. Moments like these make the law school journey educational, enriching, and fulfilling.

### **How has this scholarship impacted you in your personal or academic life?**

I cannot express how grateful I am for your support. Going to law school was never in my cards – nothing in my history suggests that I would ever get here. I grew up well below the poverty line in Texas on a small farm that I helped tend from an early age. I don't think I even spoke to an attorney until I was close to 30. I understand that, for far too many, access to justice is a luxury not the right that it should be. I am fervently committed to helping those who are underserved, unappreciated, and unheard. Your support makes that possible for me.

### **What do you hope to accomplish in the next five years either at DU or in your professional career?**

I've been so fortunate here at DU. I've volunteered with the International Rescue Committee, the Colorado Poverty Law Center, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the Colorado Judicial Institute, and more. I plan to continue working for the public good, and I'm excited to continue diversifying my experiences and learning as much as possible. After I graduate, I hope to work in civil rights.



**Amy Lorde**  
Alto, Texas  
Expected Graduation: 2025



**Isabella Pichler**  
Highlands Ranch, Colorado  
Graduated 2024

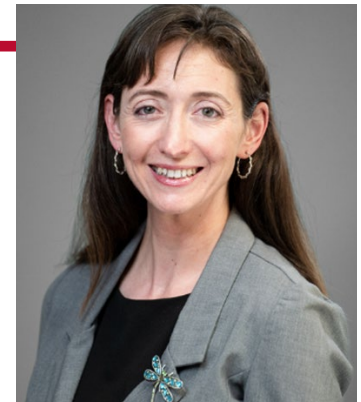
### **What has been your favorite experience at DU?**

One of the most unforgettable and fulfilling experiences I had during law school was my time in the immigration clinic, where I had the privilege of representing indigent clients facing daunting immigration challenges. Among the numerous cases I handled, one particularly poignant moment stands out – the day I succeeded in securing the release of my client from detention on bond. My client, a vulnerable individual seeking asylum, had been detained for months, enduring the anguish of separation from their loved ones and the uncertainty of their future. Their despair was palpable during our initial meeting, but I was determined to provide them with the zealous representation they deserved. Through meticulous preparation, impassioned advocacy, and unwavering perseverance, I presented a compelling case for my client's release during a bond hearing. The moment the judge granted our request, and my client walked out of detention, their face lit up with relief and gratitude. It was profoundly rewarding. It was a testament to the transformative power of legal advocacy and the significance of standing up for the rights of the most vulnerable among us.

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### **What do you hope to accomplish in the next five years either at DU or in your professional career?**

After I graduate, I hope to bring more stakeholders into the discussion around natural resource management in the West. The federal government works hard to balance the many competing interests, but many people who are directly impacted by issues like water distribution and access to federal lands do not have a voice. I hope to broaden the discussion and provide representation to traditionally underserved communities.



**Amelia Schubert-Zhang**  
Arvada, Colorado  
Expected Graduation: 2026



**Emily Sexton**  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
Graduated 2024

### **Note of gratitude**

Law school has challenged and transformed me. In the last three years, your donations have provided me the opportunity to improve my work ethic, attention to detail, endurance, and professional skills. It has been deeply rewarding. It would not have been possible without your generous support. As a first-generation college and law student, there were numerous challenges to overcome, but thanks to you, my finances were never one of them. I could not have been as successful as I have been without your gift. Thank you!

# Creating a Legacy of Opportunity

Dean and Anne Lehman have profoundly enriched the University of Denver (DU) community with their extraordinary generosity. By establishing two new scholarships in memory of Dean's parents, they have created a legacy of support and opportunity. The Ed and Ruth Lehman Endowed Law Scholarship Fund and the Ed and Ruth Lehman Endowed Undergraduate Scholarship Fund are designed to provide vital resources to future students, enabling them to transform their dreams into reality.

Dean Lehman, a distinguished DU alumnus who received his BA in 1975 and his JD in 1979, and Anne Lehman, who earned her MT from DU in 1981, are deeply committed to honoring the legacy of Dean's parents through these scholarships.

Ed Lehman, Dean's father, had a profound and lasting connection with DU, earning his undergraduate degree in political science and later his law degree from Westminster College of Law, which eventually merged with DU. Ed also served as a DU trustee and was honored with the prestigious Evans Award. Ruth Lehman, a pioneer in her own right, graduated from Columbia University with a law degree and was among the first women to practice law in Colorado.

These scholarships do more than celebrate the exceptional legacy of Ed and Ruth Lehman — they extend their dedication to education and the legal profession into the future. By supporting DU students, their legacy will inspire and empower future generations of law students to achieve their highest potential, ensuring that their remarkable spirit of service and commitment continues to shine brightly.

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**“A financial donation to DU for student scholarships is a meaningful way to remember and celebrate my parents’ enduring impact. They used their education and legal expertise to become dedicated newspaper publishers in Longmont, Loveland, Cañon City, Louisville, and Lafayette. Their collaboration with local communities and associates led to many significant accomplishments over the decades. My parents devoted their time, talents, and energy to various civic, government, and newspaper organizations”**

– Dean Lehman, JD’79, BA’75

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# Supporting Future Generations of Denver Lawyers

Established in Denver in 1945, Berenbaum Weinshienk PC was a full-service law firm co-founded by University of Denver law school alumnus Joseph Berenbaum, JD'38. As the firm approached its 50th anniversary, the partners reflected on the numerous attorneys from the Sturm College of Law who had contributed to its success. To support future generations of Denver lawyers, they established the Berenbaum Weinshienk and Eason Endowed Scholarship. Since its inception in 1996, the fund has provided renewable scholarships to 17 Sturm College of Law students and, as an endowment, will continue to do so in perpetuity.

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**“We were a DU law firm. Even if you didn’t study there, it was a vital part of our professional landscape here in Colorado, so it was important for us to invest in it in perpetuity. We weren’t a big firm, but together we could really make a lasting impact. I continue to give to the fund to honor Joe’s legacy and the role DU has had in the Denver legal community.”**

– Former partner  
Richard Eason, JD'56

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# A Legacy of Excellence and Advocacy

The Karen Sweeney Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund stands as a testament to the remarkable legacy of Karen Sweeney Rapson, JD'76. Karen was a pioneering force in the legal community, breaking barriers as one of the first female partners at Holland & Hart law firm. Specializing in estate planning, Karen's career was marked by her dedication to excellence and her unwavering commitment to her clients.

Karen's journey in the legal field began as a trust officer at the Colorado National Bank, where she honed her skills before pursuing her passion for law. A proud Colorado native and Denverite, Karen was known not only for her sharp intellect and professional acumen but also for her vibrant personality and extensive network within the Denver community.

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As part of her probate practice, Karen also enjoyed representing both parties with fairness and integrity. However, she had a special affinity for advocating on behalf of women, believing firmly that women deserved financial equality. Her dedication to this cause was evident in her work and the impact she had on her clients' lives.

Established in 2008 by the Holland & Hart Foundation, along with William R. Rapson, Anne Rapson, and William David Rapson, the Karen Sweeney Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund aims to carry forward Karen's legacy of excellence and advocacy.

The Scholarship Fund not only commemorates Karen's extraordinary contributions to the legal profession but also continues her mission of empowering women in law. Through this scholarship, Karen's spirit of determination, fairness, and dedication to equality lives on, inspiring future generations of legal professionals.

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**“Karen was admired by clients and co-workers alike. She was a class act. In addition, she was a wonderful wife and mother to her family.”**

– William R. Rapson

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# Thank You for Supporting DU Sturm College of Law Students

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THE  
**DENVER DIFFERENCE**  
WHAT DU CAN DO

For more information visit: [denverdifference.org](http://denverdifference.org)