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How's This for a Graduation Present? \$1 Million Will Fund New UB Center

*Stephen L. Snyder Announces Gift
In Commencement Speech Delivered Yesterday
On 30th Anniversary of His Graduation*

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Prominent Pikesville trial attorney Stephen L. Snyder, who graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law 30 years ago, found a special way to celebrate that anniversary as he gave the commencement speech yesterday for UB Law's class of 2000.

How? By announcing his gift of \$1 million to establish an endowment for the Stephen L. Snyder Center for Litigation Skills at UB Law.

"As a result of all the good fortune I've had and the strides UB has made, I felt I wanted to give something back in the kind of law I practice," said Snyder in a phone interview before his speech yesterday.

Another reason for the donation: his son, Michael Snyder, is a member of the UB Law School class of 2000 — and will practice in his father's firm. "It's exciting to be a speaker at my son's graduation," Snyder enthused. "This is one of the highlights of my career." Snyder, explaining his largesse, called litigation "my passion."

"But there are very few good trial lawyers," the attorney noted. "So I asked, Why? If I'm going to leave a legacy, it can't just be to the law library. There's no litigation center at the University of Maryland or the University of Baltimore to train lawyers in skills for advocacy and litigation. So it should be a good draw for UB."

A good year

Snyder heads the Pikesville firm of Snyder, Weiner, Weltchek, Vogelstein & Brown, which in January won one of the largest

contingency fees on record in Maryland — \$71.2 million in a lawsuit against the giant accounting firm, Ernst & Young.

That represented 40 percent of the \$185 million legal settlement against Ernst & Young to settle a claim that the accounting firm's bad advice sank the fashion clothing chain, Merry-Go-Round Enterprises.

In his memorandum granting the fee, U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge E. Stephen Derby said the litigation was "unprecedented, and the result was extraordinary and beneficial to the bankruptcy estate. The testimony at the hearing on approval of Snyder, Weiner's fee application elaborated on the circumstances of this representation and confirmed to the court that its approval of the 40% contingent fee agreement was reasonable."

Since then, Ernst & Young has hired Snyder, Weiner to represent it in a \$185 million indemnity suit.

The Snyder gift is the third largest in UB's 75-year history and the largest donation to the law school in the current UB fundraising campaign.

The new center will invite judges and trial litigators to give lectures, meet with students and faculty and teach. Other plans include special conferences and symposia focusing on major litigation issues.

In addition, the new center will sponsor an annual Stephen L. Snyder Lecture in Trial Advocacy, to be presented by an outstanding trial attorney or judge.

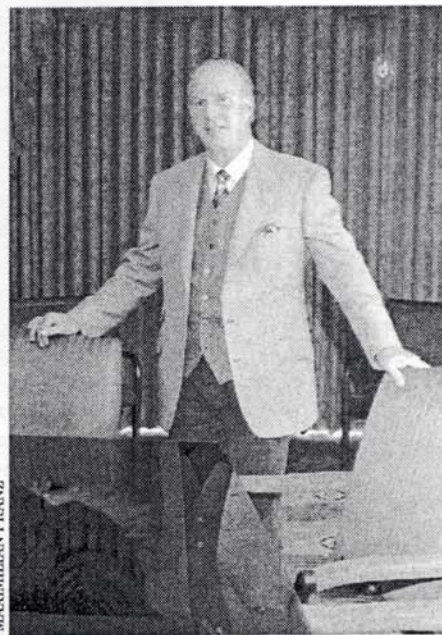
"This gift will help put UB on the map as a litigation-training powerhouse," said Jose Anderson, a UB law professor and the Snyder Center's director. "We're the best-kept secret in the region. After this gift, we won't be a secret anymore."

Anderson said Snyder's vision is to enhance the reputation of the law school.

"It makes us the place where cutting-edge research and interaction will take place," said Anderson, who began teaching at UB in 1993, after serving nine years in the Maryland Public Defender's Office. "In five years, we'll have one of the top litigation centers in the east."

"We're already doing a lot of this," Anderson concluded. "But the long-term commitment will separate us from other schools in the region."

Snyder, 53 has another son who is an attorney: Marc, who practices in his father's firm. Scott Snyder, his third son, will graduate soon from UB's Gordon College of Liberal Arts.



MAXIMILIAN FRANZ

Stephen L. Snyder, who was graduated from the University of Baltimore's School of Law in 1970, says he wants to share his good fortune - and his name - with his alma mater by funding a center for litigation skills. 'There are very few good trial lawyers,' he says. 'So I asked, Why?'

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