

A Firm Commitment

UNLV LAW AMONG MANY BENEFICIARIES OF EGLET PRINCE'S GENEROUS COMMUNITY-BASED PHILANTHROPY

BY GAEL HEES

Robert Eglet knew he wanted to be an attorney at the age of 13 when he stumbled into a courthouse and started watching a jury trial for a civil case. Today, he's a senior partner at Eglet Prince, a personal-injury firm with 14 lawyers dedicated to supporting the community that has helped make the firm successful.

"At Eglet Prince we try to keep our charitable contributions local," Eglet says. "For example, we give to the law school and the local chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Those things are important to us; it's part of who we are and part of our obligation to give back to the community that supports us."

One unique way the firm gives back is

by awarding an annual scholarship to a third-year student from the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law. Not only does the scholarship cover full tuition (including books), but the winner also receives a one-year paid internship.



Eglet

Each intern spends about 20 hours a week shadowing attorneys and partners in court, depositions, and various proceedings. When not job shadowing, Eglet says Boyd's interns are handed some writing assignments—actually, a lot of writing assignments, for which the students are well-trained thanks to UNLV Law's renowned Legal Writing program, which earlier this year was ranked No. 1 in the nation.

"The school's writing program is excel-

lent," says Eglet, whose wife, Tracy, is a partner in the firm while his daughter, Jordan, is a second-year student at Boyd. "We find that the research and writing that comes from Boyd students is second to none."

Eglet Prince's commitment to Boyd doesn't end with the annual scholarship winner. The law firm also grants students access to its state-of-the-art mock courtroom facility in downtown Las Vegas. There, students can practice and host mock trials in a high-tech courtroom setting.

Speaking of courtroom settings, in addition to donating money to worthy causes and providing UNLV Law students invaluable hands-on experiences, Eglet notes that the firm often serves the community through the positive results of its casework.

"The reason we do a lot of product-liability law, among other things, is that when we take a case to verdict, the result often changes behavior in companies or people for the better," he says. "We have tried a number of cases where we've made a significant impact to make things safer."

Legal Support

GIVING BACK IS AT THE CORE OF THE MISSION AT SNELL & WILMER

BY GAEL HEES

For the law firm of Snell & Wilmer, just making a verbal commitment to supporting the community through philanthropic efforts wasn't enough. No, the 80-year-old firm actually put it in writing, as part of its credo: "For our community, we will continue our long tradition of service and leadership."

The firm's partners doubled down on that mission several years ago by establishing a unique—and quite generous—program: In 2014, as a way to encourage partners and associates to support their respective alma maters, the firm agreed to match every individual donation up to \$500 per year, per person.

Since the program was launched, Snell & Wilmer has matched more than \$100,000 in donations across its 11 offices, which employ more than 400 attorneys. And since a dozen alums of the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law work in Snell & Wilmer's Las Vegas office, Nevada's only law school has received a sizable chunk of that largesse.

"Our firm has a tradition of giving back in our communities—financially and otherwise—for as long as it has existed," says Snell & Wilmer partner Justin Carley, a 2006 Boyd alum. "The donation-match program is just another way of proving that."

Carley notes that in Las Vegas alone, Snell & Wilmer has experienced a year-over-year increase in the total amount of employee donations from 2014-2017. He adds that Boyd has received 37 matching donations since the program began, helping the Las Vegas office—one of the firm's smaller locales—rank second to only Phoenix.

A portion of those donations support UNLV Law's Alumni Leadership Circle, which features a group of dedicated alumni who agree to pledge at least \$1,000 annually over five years to support the school. More

than half of Snell & Wilmer's attorneys who graduated from Boyd are in the Alumni Leadership Circle—more than any other law firm.

"The Alumni Leadership Circle is a pivotal fundraising arm at Boyd, and we're grateful to all of our graduates who are part of it, as well as those who have agreed to give back to their alma mater in other ways," says Layke Martin, UNLV Law's Assistant Dean for External Relations. "We are especially appreciative of our alums at Snell & Wilmer who have taken advantage of the firm's extremely generous donation-match program."

Of course, Snell & Wilmer's support of UNLV Law goes beyond financial. Many of the firm's attorneys also have contributed their time, whether serving on Boyd's Alumni Board, sponsoring and participating in the annual golf tournament, or mentoring students as part of the Dinner With a Rebel program. The firm also hosts networking receptions and lunches that enable Boyd students to learn more about the practice of law.

"Basically, we do anything the law school asks us," Carley says. "We're willing to help."

Needless to say, it's help that's very much appreciated.