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### Legacy of Generosity: Lawyer-Turned-Doctor's Major Gift Will Fund Scholarships

UB Law Forum

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# Legacy Giving

## Legacy of generosity

*Lawyer-turned-doctor's major gift will fund scholarships*

A substantial bequest from the estate of a UB-trained lawyer-turned-doctor will go for scholarship aid to incoming students, improving the Law School's position in the increasingly competitive market for top law students.

Dr. Thomas A. Rodenberg grew up in Buffalo and began his professional life as an attorney after graduating from the University of Alabama, and then UB Law in 1938. Following service as an Army Air Corps intelligence officer during World War II, he decided to switch from law to medicine. He moved south in 1957 and practiced obstetrics and gynecology in Hollywood, Fla.

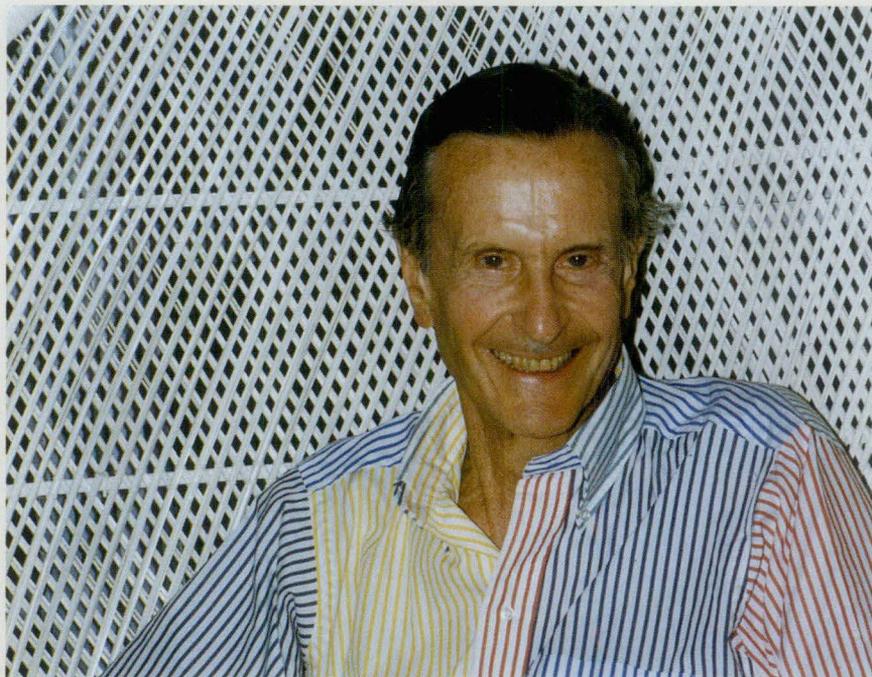
Dr. Rodenberg died in 1995 at age 81. Distributions from his estate are now being made following the death of his second wife, Joan. His first marriage, to Buffalo native Billie Davis, ended with her passing.

Spanning his professional interests, the Buffalo bequests include \$50,000 for the Law School and \$50,000 for the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

"He used the income from his law practice to finance medical school at UB," said James Hollander, Dr. Rodenberg's stepson. "He believed that a law school background was good for anybody. He told people that until the time of his death."

Neighbors and friends remember a personable man who was very much involved in community life. "He was an all-around type person who gave his all to this community, and the people here respected him for it," said neighbor Chris DeLuca.

"Tom made a point of befriending the lawyers in town," including a prominent Florida medical malpractice attorney, Hollander said. "He used to say that it is better to befriend your enemy than anything else." Dr. Rodenberg



Dr. Thomas A. Rodenberg

was also an accomplished cook, and was featured in a 1975 *Miami Herald* article on "short-cut cookery."

"He was a very serious guy, very bright, but he worked his way up," Hollander said. "He went way beyond his parents in terms of accomplishments. But he always carried that idea that you had to work hard and be responsible for your own success."

Dr. Rodenberg was a founding member of Temple Beth El, a Reform synagogue in Hollywood, and left a substantial sum to the Jewish Federation of South Broward. His other bequests included the Lake Erie College for Women; the foundation of Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, to establish a lec-

ture series on gynecology; and – befitting a man who bred and showed boxers and loved dogs in general – the Humane Society of Broward County.

His posthumous gift to the Law School will go to establish the Thomas A. Rodenberg and Billie Davis Rodenberg Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Lillie Wylie-Upshaw, UB Law's associate dean for admissions and financial aid, said of the gift, "It will definitely have a positive impact on our admissions process."

"Gifts like these," she said, "help us recruit highly qualified students so we can compete with private law schools to attract top-flight students who might otherwise go elsewhere."

Said Hollander: "It was not a surprise that he left all that money. He had a big heart."

# Charitable Bequests

## *Giving to UB Law through your will*

Many alumni and friends who have had their lives enriched by the Law School are increasingly making testamentary gifts to preserve their connection to the school and ultimately, to enable the university to fulfill its vision of excellence. Gifts by bequest represent an enormous resource to the university, and it is our hope that you will thoughtfully consider naming the University at Buffalo School of Law in your will.

Gifts by bequest may be unrestricted (allows the dean the discretion to use your gift to meet important priorities), or restricted to benefit a specific Law School program (i.e., Baldy Center) or initiative (i.e., student scholarships) of your choosing. All such gifts should be directed to the University at Buffalo Foundation, Inc., which accepts, manages and distributes gifts on behalf of the Law School.

Bequest gifts may be funded with any asset you own that has value, including cash, securities, retirement accounts or life insurance policy (via beneficiary designation forms), real estate or tangible personal property. If you intend to fund your gift to the Law School with assets other than cash, then the property to be gifted should be described with specificity in the will and/or other estate plan document.

The following sample language should be helpful to you and your attorney in the drafting of your will or other estate plan document:

*"I give, devise and bequeath to the University at Buffalo Foundation, Inc., a non-profit educational corporation in Buffalo, New York, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars (\$\_\_\_\_) for the benefit of the University at Buffalo Law School."*

Additional questions on bequests may be directed to:

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## Members of the General Edmund Hayes Society

The University at Buffalo bestows membership in the General Edmund Hayes Society to individuals who have made provisions through a bequest or other method of deferred giving. We thank the individuals listed below who have designated the UB Law School to receive their gifts.

Anonymous (1)  
Hilary P. Bradford  
Ross M. Cellino Sr. and Jeanette E. Cellino  
Lynn A. Clarke  
Frank N. Cuomo  
Michael H. Doran  
Florence P. Edlin  
Mary K. Foster  
Gordon R. Gross and Gretchen S. Gross  
Thomas E. Headrick and Mary M. Headrick  
Erma R. Hallett Jaeckle  
Barbara D. Klippert  
Francis M. Letro and Cindy Abbott Letro  
Robert I. Reis and Ellen S. Reis  
Anthony J. Renaldo  
Arthur A. Russ Jr.  
Belle F. Theobald  
Jean M. Valvo

The Law School has only recently begun to reach out to alumni and friends to talk about including the Law School in estate plans. If you have already made a will provision, or other estate plan, to benefit the Law School, please be so kind as to let us know. If you are interested in receiving more information about deferred giving, please contact either:

Deborah J. Scott Vice Dean for Development UB Law School 408 O'Brian Hall Buffalo, NY 14260-1100 (716) 645-2113	Alan Carrel Vice Dean UB Law School 311 O'Brian Hall Buffalo, NY 14260-1100 (716) 645-6222
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