A Gift of Leadership
Planned Gift Creates UT College of Law’s Institute for Professional Leadership

When Larry Wilks included the College of Law in his estate planning, he sparked a legacy of leadership that will benefit every UT law student for years to come.

Wilks passed away in 2011, leaving an undesignated $100,000 gift to the college. The money was used as seed funding for the Lawyers as Leaders course, which later developed into the College of Law’s Institute for Professional Leadership, which helps students develop leadership skills and professional values.

Years later, the Institute for Professional Leadership—now led by professor and former College of Law dean Doug Blaze—offers a course for all first-year students, as well as upper-division courses in leadership and professional development. It also provides students with cross-cultural perspectives on leadership and service through “Leading as Lawyers: Trans-Pacific Perspectives,” a course taught in partnership with the University of Queensland in Australia.

Students benefit from practical legal education through the Institute’s mentoring and pro bono programs. The Institute also co-sponsors symposia on professional leadership education with other law schools, bringing together nationally recognized speakers on leadership development.

“I learned the importance of being honest with myself, knowing who I am, and who I want to be.”
—UT law student Racquel Martin

...continued on Page 2
A Gift of Leadership
Planned Gift Creates UT College of Law’s Institute for Professional Leadership

...continued from Page 1

"I learned the importance of being honest with myself, knowing who I am and who I want to be," says UT law student Racquel Martin. Her leadership coursework at the College of Law also helped her in "determining how my strengths, weaknesses, and personality traits affect my interactions with others. I learned a lot about myself and my classmates—the future leaders of the American and Australian legal professions."

Wilks, who graduated from UT with a bachelor’s degree in agricultural economics in 1977 and a law degree in 1980, practiced law in his hometown of Springfield, Tennessee, for 30 years. He was also an active leader in his county and state bar association and served as president of the Tennessee Bar Association.

ONE PLANNED GIFT THAT SPARKED ANOTHER
Wilks’s planned gift also prompted one of his College of Law classmates, Memphis attorney George T. "Buck" Lewis, to make a gift. Like Wilks, Lewis is a former president of the Tennessee Bar Association and has served in many leadership capacities. Lewis, the Larry D. Wilks Distinguished Practitioner in Residence in the College of Law, followed Wilks’s lead. He and his wife, Malinda, made a gift to the Institute through their estate.

"Larry imparted his leadership skills to hundreds of young lawyers," Lewis says. "He would be so proud to have left a legacy of training young lawyers to lead. His passion, and my experience working with these fine young people, inspired Malinda and me to make our gift and to work to make the Institute for Professional Leadership the best in the nation."

The institute has also attracted the generosity of many other donors. Lewis’s law firm, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz P.C. (and the individual alumni who work there), recently made a $200,000 commitment to support the Institute.

Feeling inspired?
Like Wilks and Lewis, you too can give to UT with a gift in your estate. To learn more, contact the Office of Gift Planning at 865-974-2370 or giftplanning@utk.edu.

PREPARE YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY
Losing you will be devastating and stressful for your loved ones. Learn how making decisions now will help to ease their pain in our new guide Give Your Family the Gift of Peace of Mind. For more information on including UT in your planning, ask for the free guide Your Personal Guide to Gift Planning. Request your copies today using the enclosed reply card.
When people think about giving to an institution like UT, writing a check might seem like the easiest way to give. It’s true that such gifts take care of our most immediate needs, but what about the long-term needs of UT students and staff?

Regardless of the season or the time of year, there is always a demand for an affordable and accessible education. To help, consider turning the gift you make today into a gift for tomorrow by making a planned gift to UT.

A planned gift is a commitment to benefit countless Vols for years to come. These types of gifts often involve a little more thought, but you can align them with your overall financial and estate planning goals. The best part? Your gift is generally deferred until after your lifetime, so your current income isn’t affected. Also, with many planned gifts, you can change your mind at any time.

No matter which gift type you choose, you can feel confident in knowing that your contribution will allow us to offer students a top-tier education at Tennessee’s preeminent research-based, land-grant university well into the future.

YOU DON’T HAVE TO Go It Alone

Want to learn more about the many ways to make a planned gift? Visit us at giftplanning.utk.edu to uncover which gift type is right for you. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Gift Planning.
We would be happy to assist you.
One Sentence Can Change a Life

Remember UT in Your Will or Living Trust

What if all you had to do to ensure that UT can educate and enrich students for years to come was to write a simple sentence? Sound impossible?

Securing the future of our students really is as simple as one sentence. By including a gift to UT in your will, you can support tomorrow’s Vols without giving away any of your assets today.

PUT IT IN Writing

If you are ready to include a gift to UT in your will, ask your attorney to add this suggested wording to your will:

I give to the University of Tennessee Foundation, Inc. [Federal Tax ID # 62-1844686] for the benefit of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, _____ (percent of my estate, dollars, property, securities, rest, residue, or remainder of my estate) to be used by _____ (college, department, program, etc.) to be used for _____ (however you wish your gift to be used or you may just stipulate “greatest need”).

Including UT in your will is a popular gift to give because it is:

■ Affordable. The actual giving of your gift occurs after your lifetime, so your current income is not affected.

■ Flexible. Until your will goes into effect, you are free to alter your plans or change your mind.

■ Versatile. You can give a specific item, a set amount of money, or a percentage of your estate. You can also make your gift contingent upon certain events.

If you have any questions about making a gift to UT Knoxville, please contact us. If you have already included us in your will, let us know so we can ensure your gift is used exactly as you intended.