I am privileged to have received both my undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Georgia. During my seven years in Athens, I was exposed to world class teachers in a great environment that prepared me well for my career in law.

Even before graduation, I made a promise to myself that I would give back to the university that gave me so much. My giving to Georgia Law began soon after my three children graduated from college. Making only small gifts at first, I gradually escalated my giving to the Joseph Henry Lumpkin Society level. I look upon my gifts as a solid investment toward the future of the law school.

I am honored to have been selected as a member of the Law School Association Council in 2008. Serving on the council has made me aware of the significant impact alumni contributions play in making our law school even better. For example, I have learned that public dollars cannot be used for scholarships. Alumni donations to the Law School Fund (also known as the annual fund) help provide scholarship support for deserving students who would otherwise receive no financial assistance. As these annual fund dollars are used to attract and support bright and deserving students, Georgia Law is strengthened which, in turn, enhances the value and reputation of my own law degree.

We all have heard the saying, “Give until it feels good.” Well, I definitely get a good feeling each year when I contribute to Georgia Law – I have seen firsthand the results of alumni giving. On several occasions, I have had the opportunity to meet many of our scholarship students, and I can assure you they are confident, extremely bright and grounded.

I urge all Georgia Law alumni and friends to join me in making annual contributions to the Law School Fund in order to preserve and improve our great law school for future generations.

To join those who already support Georgia Law by making a gift to the Law School Fund, please contact Phyllis Cooke, director of annual giving, at 706-542-7637 or cooke@uga.edu or visit our website, www.law.uga.edu/giving, to make your gift online.