

8-25-2004

Chapman Receives \$585,000 Gift to Expand Elder Law Clinic on Campus

Chapman University Media Relations

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/press_releases



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Chapman University Media Relations, "Chapman Receives \$585,000 Gift to Expand Elder Law Clinic on Campus" (2004). *Chapman Press Releases 2003-2011*. 418.
https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/press_releases/418

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Chapman Press at Chapman University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Chapman Press Releases 2003-2011 by an authorized administrator of Chapman University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact laughtin@chapman.edu.



Chapman Receives \$585,000 Gift to Expand Elder Law Clinic on Campus

ORANGE, Calif., Aug. 25, 2004 - The Chapman University School of Law announced today that it received a gift of \$585,000 to expand the current Elder Law Clinic space on campus. The contribution was made by Alona M. Cortese and her daughter, Heidi Cortese Sherman, to establish the Alona Cortese Elder Law Center.

Alona Cortese and her late husband, Ross Cortese, were the developers of the Leisure World Active Adult Communities. Heidi Cortese Sherman, in keeping with her family's long standing history and interest in improving the quality of life for seniors, said she was thrilled to be able to partner on such a worthwhile endeavor with the Chapman School of Law. This is the family's first donation to Chapman.

Chapman's current Elder Law Clinic soon will move into a newly renovated and retrofitted house on Glassell Avenue, just doors down from Kennedy Hall, home to the law school. The center will reopen in fall.

The new building provides ample work space for our clinical students and private consultation rooms for their clients, said law school Dean Parham Williams. Designed to facilitate the rendering of effective legal services, the center is a state of the art clinical facility and we are truly grateful for the Cortese family's generosity.

Chapman has responded to recent demand for courses focused on legal matters and the elderly by instituting new curriculum and enhancing clinical services and facilities. Last fall, for the first time, Chapman offered an elder law class, led by Professor Kurt Eggert, director of clinical legal education, where students worked for elderly clients in such issues as wills, mortgages, and government benefits.

As well, Chapman's clinical programs have received two grants in the past year. The first, from Pacificare Foundation, for \$10,000, has allowed Chapman to purchase the computer equipment to help set up the Elder Law Clinical Program. The second, from the Archstone Foundation, for \$50,000, will enable the Clinical Program to hire a paralegal to work with students in representing the elderly clients. The Cortese family contribution further enables Chapman to offer comprehensive legal services to older citizens.

Cases involving legal issues and the elderly are referred to the law school by several agencies including the Public Law Center and the Legal Aid Society. For additional information, the temporary number is (714) 628-2584.

For more information about Chapman University, please contact (714) 997-6607 or visit the university Web site at www.chapman.edu.