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Education

Temple Law receives \$1.5M gift from Philadelphia-area attorney



Temple University Beasley School of Law has received a \$1.5 million gift.

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By [Jeff Blumenthal](#) – Senior Reporter, Philadelphia Business Journal
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A South Jersey trial lawyer has donated \$1.5 million to his alma mater, [Temple University](#) Beasley School of Law, to support the school's national trial team.

Daniel Rosner, 66, a Philadelphia native and plaintiffs personal injury lawyer in Vineland, said he has been largely distant with Temple Law over the years but kept in touch with his classmates and attended reunions every five years. He had already decided he wanted to pursue a larger philanthropic endeavor and when he met Temple officials at his latest reunion last year, a plan came into focus. He soon met with Temple Law Dean Rachel Rebouché and Lois Gabin-Legato, assistant dean for development, external relations and alumni affairs.

Gabin-Legato came up with a list of proposals and found an ideal match with the trial advocacy team, which travels around the country to compete against other law schools in mock regional and national trial competitions.

Students can audition for the team beginning in the spring of their first year of law school, and those who make the team earn academic credit for participation.



Daniel Rosner
DANIEL ROSNER

In recognition of the gift, the team will now be known as the Temple Rosner National Trial Team. The gift will finance the team’s travel to competitions.

During his own law school days, Rosner himself competed on trial teams, with the school paying for his airfare and hotel.

“I wanted to give more students the opportunity,” Rosner said. “In most of these competitions, you can submit at least two teams. But if the school only has the budget for one, then there's four or five students that are being deprived the opportunity of developing their skills as law students to become great trial lawyers.”

Temple Law has the top-rated trial advocacy program in the country, according to [U.S. News & World Report’s](#) annual law school rankings.

Rosner said the timing was good, being that funding of public colleges and universities is under duress due to the current political climate in Washington, D.C.

“Having an opportunity to make sure that something permanently will be there for the future of Temple was very important,” Rosner said.

Rosner was born in South Philadelphia to a family with modest financial means. The Northeast High School graduate attended Temple University as an undergraduate student on scholarship and worked his way through college.

After graduating from the university in 1980 and then the law school in 1983, he worked for about a year for a law firm before forming his own. Rosner relocated his law firm to South Jersey in the 1990s. He went on to become one of the more prominent plaintiffs lawyers in South Jersey.

In 2005, he served as lead plaintiff counsel in *Serrano v. Serrano*, in which the Supreme Court of New Jersey handed down a landmark decision providing more rights to victims of automobile accidents. He was also president of the state trial lawyers’ association, New Jersey Association for Justice.

As he inched closer to retirement, Rosner folded his firm into North Jersey’s Javerbaum Wurgaft Hicks Kahn Wikstrom & Sinins, which is one of the Garden State’s largest litigation boutiques with roughly 90 lawyers. He said the move has allowed him and his wife, Terri Gallo Rosner, who has handled the business side of the firm for the past three decades, to shift their focus away from law firm management and more toward handling cases and spending time traveling and pursuing charitable endeavors.

Rosner’s donation is the second seven-figure gift Temple Law has received in as many years. Last year, former Philadelphia Common Pleas Judge Joyce Kean, who earned an undergraduate degree at Temple in education in 1963 as well as a law degree in 1979, and her husband, [Dr. Herbert Kean](#) donated \$5 million to

create an endowed deanship. That was the second-largest gift the school had ever received.

In 1999, Temple Law was renamed the James E. Beasley School of Law in honor of the prominent trial lawyer and alumnus who contributed the largest endowment in the history of the university. The size of the endowment was not disclosed. It has been used for financial support for students, to create named professorships, to support faculty research and teaching, and to support educational programs.

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