



**The College of Law
Honors the Legacy of
Eleanor Theodore L'52
and Her Gift to Future
Generations of Law
Students.**

**ALSO INSIDE:
The Honor Roll of Donors**

“Our alumni truly care, both about our school and about one another.”



DEAN'S MESSAGE

The end of the year is always a good time for reflection and gratitude. This December, at Syracuse Law, there is much to celebrate. I am especially thankful for my faculty colleagues and our entire staff for moving us forward with distinction and for supporting our students' journeys and their progress as lawyers in training.

Of course, much of the inspiration for our collective achievements comes from you: our alumni. I am deeply proud to report that among all 12 Syracuse University schools and colleges, the College of Law again holds the highest rate of alumni engagement, with more than 32 percent of our alumni meaningfully engaged with us. What's more, in fiscal year 2022, 1,600 donors pledged or gave over \$6.2 million to the College of Law, far exceeding our annual fundraising goal.

These numbers speak volumes. And what they say to me, and our entire College of Law family, is that our alumni truly care, both about our school and about one another.

As former students with your own indelible memories of law school and the bonds you forged here, you inspire future generations of Orange lawyers through mentoring and advising, teaching courses, judging competitions, serving on our boards and committees, and employing our graduates. Your engagement enriches the College of Law experience. Thank you for the many ways you support your alma mater and our students throughout the year.

As you peruse our December giving report, I hope you enjoy reading about our featured alumna, Eleanor Theodore L'52, whose legacy will endure and inspire for generations to come. This fall, I had the honor of dedicating the Eleanor Theodore Lecture Hall and announcing the endowment of the Eleanor Theodore L'52 Memorial Law Scholarship Fund.

Eleanor often spoke of the College of Law as important to her—as the only woman to graduate in the Class of 1952. What she learned here built a future for her and allowed her to live a life of service and incredible generosity. Walking by the lecture hall that bears her name, all of our students will find yet another source of inspiration during their time at Syracuse.

As Maya Angelou once said, “Your legacy is every life you’ve ever touched.” Thank you for the ever-growing legacy you are building for, and at, the College of Law.

Very Truly Yours,

Craig M. Boise
Dean and Professor of Law

Eleanor Theodore '49, L'52

Honoring a Trailblazing Alumna Who Lived a Quiet Life of Public Service



Passing through the doors of the Eleanor Theodore Lecture Hall in Dineen Hall, a law student might just wonder about the woman behind the name. A simple Google search would turn up an obituary (she died at the age of 92 on January 15, 2021), but even that would not reveal the answer. The student would have to dig deeper and conduct research (primary and secondary) to uncover details about Theodore and her impact on the city of Syracuse, her profession, and the world at large. And that would have suited Theodore just fine. Because she liked to work quietly, diligently, over decades, surrounded by books, records, and historical artifacts.

Theodore was a woman who may not have made headlines, but she nonetheless made a huge impact on countless lives.

After earning her undergraduate degree in 1949 from Syracuse University in just three years, Theodore enrolled in the College of Law, fulfilling a childhood dream to become a lawyer. She would be the only woman to graduate in the Class of 1952.

“Eleanor was very smart,” says Steve Nicolaos, who was close to Theodore throughout his life, even helping to take care of her during her last year of life. “She would tell me that the law was a male-dominated field back in the ‘50s and that she experienced a good deal of resentment. She said she had to work twice as hard to succeed.” And succeed she surely did.

For eight years, Theodore practiced general law in a small Syracuse law firm and in 1960, she was appointed assistant corporation counsel for the City of Syracuse, becoming the first woman in the history of the city’s law department and the only woman attorney during her first decade on the job. A trailblazer of her time, Theodore provided legal advice to mayors, city departments, and the council. She was also the assigned attorney to the Syracuse Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals, defending them in any litigation.

Theodore was a woman who was passionate about her work,

putting her whole self into her professional life. In a short profile piece published in the Syracuse Law Magazine (Fall 2007), Theodore said, “I intended to remain in the law department for four years and ended up staying 37 years, serving under five mayors and 11 corporate counsels.”

Theodore worked with both Republican and Democratic administrations throughout the span of her career. “That was highly unusual,” one of Theodore’s long-time friends, Dean Assimon, explains, “because often you see politicians cleaning house after an election. But she got things done and earned universal respect and trust. We need more Eleanors these days.”

“You name it—whatever happened in Syracuse, Eleanor probably had a hand in it, working through multiple administrations and transitions, and helping to build and protect the city she loved,” said College of Law Dean Craig Boise during a ceremony to dedicate the lecture hall in Theodore’s name.

Through multiple administrations and major political transitions, Theodore kept her head down and remained steadfast in her commitment to her work. In a major accomplishment for her profession, she compiled all laws and statutes of the City of Syracuse into a publication that was easy to access by members of the law department and the local bar. While this effort may seem insignificant at face value, it assisted members of the law department and the local bar in improving the way things were always done. “Previously there were statutes

“You name it—whatever happened in Syracuse, Eleanor probably had a hand in it, working through multiple administrations and transitions, and helping to build and protect the city she loved.”—Craig M. Boise, Dean

you might not be aware of unless someone called it to your attention,” Theodore said. “It was frustrating.”

Taking what she learned in her law career and applying it to other aspects of her life, Theodore was also a very passionate member of her church community. She was a member of St. Sophia’s Greek Orthodox Church since childhood, attending Sunday school and Greek school, along with religious services. As an adult, she brought her legal mind and dedication to her faith by serving on the Parish Council for more than 30 years, including four times as its president. She was widely considered the church historian and is credited with putting together a book on the Church’s history.

History in all its forms was important to Theodore, along with understanding the rules, regulations and doctrines that governed the church.

“Eleanor actually read through the uniform parish regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese to ensure that our church bylaws were in compliance,” recalls Assimon, with a bit of humor. “When we had a general assembly meeting, we would invariably do something wrong, and Eleanor would take me aside and quietly whisper, ‘Now, Dean, you know you’re supposed to do this and this and this.’”

“Eleanor was very much a follower of rules and regulations,” Mary Assimon, Dean’s wife and Theodore’s close friend remembers. “Whatever Eleanor did, whether it was law or church-related, it had to be a certain way. What’s right was right. What’s wrong was wrong.”

St. Sophia’s priest, Fr. David Smith, says Theodore “was clearly not a push-over, but everything she did was gentle and peace-making. I think she’d like to be remembered for her humility, which was rather robust.”

That was the Eleanor Theodore way. With quiet determination and humility, she ensured the rules and regulations governing the church—and the City of Syracuse—were followed without fanfare. And with a deep respect for history and those who helped make history. Theodore was interviewed in a video to celebrate St. Sophia’s centennial

in 2021. She opens the film by paying tribute to the first Parish Council that had served a century before.

“I admire those people,” said Theodore on video. “They must have faced difficult times. Remember in this country, when you were foreign-born, even though you might be a citizen, you were considered a foreigner. And they built that church and maintained that church. They went through a Depression and they still survived. And we are the beneficiaries of their endeavors.”

Members of St. Sophia’s are beneficiaries of Theodore’s endeavors, too. She was on the building committee (as the only woman, of course!) that oversaw the construction of the new church in Dewitt when St. Sophia’s moved from downtown Syracuse in 1973. It was important to her to keep costs in line. “We endeavored to build a church at a reasonable cost so we would not—not—encumber future generations with a tremendous mortgage,” Theodore said in her recorded video interview. “I have seen mortgages in other churches that go on forever; we didn’t wish to do that.”

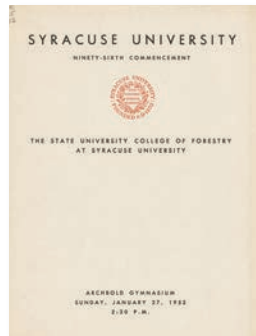
Church members are beneficiaries of both her prudence and her generosity. She helped raise thousands of dollars—and donated thousands of her own—to support the stunning stained glass windows and iconography throughout the church. “When I look at our iconography project, I always hear Eleanor’s gentle voice and sense her support,” says Fr. David.

Her sister died the year before Theodore passed away. Neither married nor had children. Mike Bandoblu L’11, her friend and attorney, said: “Eleanor was introverted, but also very nurturing and selfless. When we talked about my 2-year-old daughter, she would just light up. It seemed to me that she would have wanted to be a mother. Now, through her estate gift, she sort of is—a mother to many.”

Theodore amassed a large estate, working hard, and living with her only sister, Dorothy, in a house filled with art, literature, and collectibles. Jim Bandoblu, Theodore’s accountant, believes the legacy that Eleanor left in her gifts to the Church and the College of Law reflects her deep love for both.

“The Church and the law school both defined her,” says Jim Bandoblu. “They drove her faith and they drove her

“The Church and the law school both defined her. They drove her faith and they drove her culture—her desire to give back to the communities she loved.” —Jim Bandoblu



| CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES IN THE COLLEGE OF LAW | | |
|---|--|--|
| PRESENTED BY DEAN ANDREWS | | |
| <i>Bachelor of Laws</i> | | |
| Andrews, Clayton D., Jr. Cardamone, Richard J. Chadwick, John J. Clark, Harold Richard Donegan, John Owen Evans, Harold R., Jr. Flemma, John E. Gent, Thomas W., Jr. Grauer, Marshall Jay Keigher, John J. Kennedy, Harold E. | Kinney, John Patrick Knapp, Charles P. Leverton, Robert E. Markason, Joseph Anthony Martin, Norman J. McBurn, Neal P. Naskiewicz, Thaddeus J. Pariser, Burton C. Rieth, Otto K. Roach, Camille Mastrangelo Schwartz, Murray M. | Seaman, David V. Shaughnessy, Thomas M. Sichel, Fred J. Speiller, William Marvin Teshnakis, Costa Nicholas <u>Theodore, Eleanor</u> Tremitti, Ferdinand Van Keuren, Joseph Edward Wason, Jay W. Weinstein, Seymour Wilson, John T. |

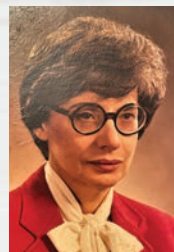
Theodore, Eleanor

culture—her desire to give back to the communities she loved.”

Her estate gift to the College of Law creates the Eleanor Theodore Memorial Law Scholarship Fund to support scholarships for deserving and promising students. The amount of the gift was not revealed, reflecting the wishes of the donor, her lifelong modesty and her desire to serve others without fanfare.

“Eleanor often told people that this law school was important to her,” says Dean Boise. “What she learned here built a future for her and allowed her to live a life of service. By putting her name on the lecture hall, we hope our students will remember the woman who was modest in demeanor, but fierce in her commitment to public service. A woman who loved history, tradition, and building for the future.” ■

College of Law Creates the Eleanor Theodore L’52 Memorial Law Scholarship Fund and Names Lecture Hall in Her Honor



officially dedicated the lecture hall where he was standing in the name of Eleanor Theodore L’52. He was thinking about her legacy and gift to future generations of law students who would study there.

“Today, we honor a woman who graduated more than a half-century ago, the only woman in the Class of 1952,” said Boise. “Eleanor Theodore, who also earned her undergraduate degree from Syracuse University in 1949, passed away last year at the age of 92. Her estate gift to the College of Law will create the Eleanor Theodore Memorial Law Scholarship Fund to support scholarships for deserving and promising students.”

The amount of the gift was not revealed, reflecting the wishes of the

donor, her lifelong modesty, and her desire to serve others without fanfare.

“Eleanor was an introvert,” says Mike Bandoblu L’11, Theodore’s close friend, accountant, and executor of her estate. “She was a private person, but she always put others first. The first word that comes to mind in describing Eleanor is ‘selflessness.’”

During the dedication ceremony, Boise recalled Theodore’s career of service over nearly four decades in the Department of Law for the City of Syracuse. As assistant corporation counsel, she provided legal advice to mayors, city departments, the Common Council, planning commission and others.

“You name it—whatever happened in Syracuse, Eleanor probably had a hand in it, working through multiple administrations and transitions, and helping to build and protect the city she loved,” said Boise. According to a profile of Theodore published in *Syracuse Law Magazine* (Fall 2007), she was the first woman in the history of the city’s law department and its only female attorney during her first decade there. She served for 37 years, under 5 mayors and 11

corporation counsels.

“Her education at the College of Law was important to her. She often told people that. What she learned here built a future for her and allowed her to live a life of service,” said Boise. “By putting her name on this lecture hall, we hope our students will remember the woman who was modest in demeanor but fierce in her commitment to serving others and the College of Law.”

In opening the program, J.D. Candidate, Class of 2024, and President of the College’s Women’s Law Students Association Julie Yang said, “The Women’s Law Students Association is committed to empowering women and advancing women in legal education and the legal profession. Our mission is to advocate for gender equity and women’s causes while creating lasting relationships with our mentors and alumnae. It is fitting therefore that we should join in this morning’s unveiling, in celebration of a woman who was truly a trailblazer. I know I speak for all my colleagues when I say that we will remember this day with great admiration and inspiration.”

GIVING WITH CLASS: THE ANNUAL GIVING LEADERBOARD

The generosity of our alumni family remains second to none. Your philanthropic support drives our success, enabling us to continue to offer a forward-leaning 21st Century legal education, recruit and retain the best and brightest students, and employ a world-class faculty that is leading the discussion on the most important legal issues of our time.

In short, we couldn't do it without our alumni's support. In Fiscal Year 2022:

- We raised more than \$6 million, exceeding our overall fundraising goal by more than \$1.5 million and setting a new high mark in giving to the **Law Annual Fund** and the **Scholarship and Financial Aid Fund**.
- We endowed new scholarships in the name of extraordinary alumni, including in honor of the **Hon. Theodore A. McKee L'75** and in memory of the formidable **Eleanor Theodore L'52**.

→ Our alumni continued to lead the University in **donor retention** and **giving participation**.

Nearly one in three College of Law alumni have now supported the **Forever Orange Campaign**, which has set a benchmark in participation for the University at large! If you have not yet made your campaign gift, it's not too late! Call or email **Sophie Dagenais** at **315.443.4536** or **sdagenai@syr.edu**.

Each year, we highlight and honor the top 10 classes for giving participation, and the top classes for giving participation by each decade. Congratulations to these classes and **thank you!**



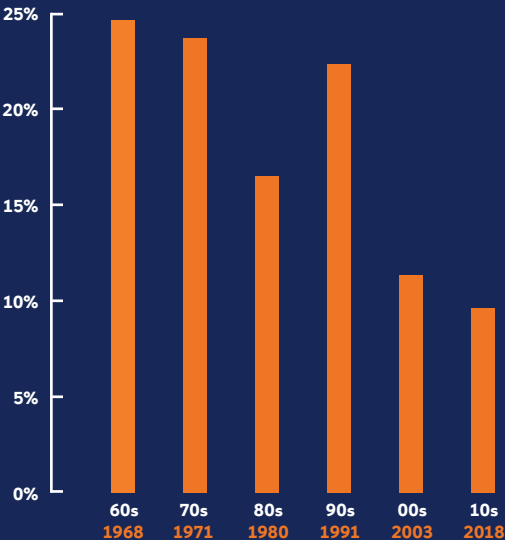
TOP 10 CLASSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022*

| Rank | Class | Participation Rate |
|------|-------|--------------------|
| 1. | 1968 | 24.59% |
| 2. | 1966 | 23.91% |
| 3. | 1971 | 23.68% |
| 4. | 1991 | 22.33% |
| 5. | 1964 | 21.05% |
| 6. | 1960 | 17.86% (TIE) |
| 6. | 1962 | 17.86% (TIE) |
| 7. | 1965 | 17.07% |
| 8. | 1967 | 16.98% |
| 9. | 1970 | 16.67% |
| 10. | 1980 | 16.47% |



TOP CLASSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 BY DECADE*

| Rank | Decade | Class | Participation Rate |
|------|--------|-------|--------------------|
| 1. | 1960s | 1968 | 24.59% |
| 2. | 1970s | 1971 | 23.68% |
| 3. | 1980s | 1980 | 16.47% |
| 4. | 1990s | 1991 | 22.33% |
| 5. | 2000s | 2003 | 11.35% |
| 6. | 2010s | 2018 | 9.59% |



College of Law

*Giving data is compiled from among all living Syracuse Law alumni, as of Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022).



IN MEMORIAM

Alumni who have passed between July 1, 2021— June 30, 2022

1940s

Norman S. Fenton 1947

1950s

Michael A. Brumer 1951
Eleanor Theodore 1952
Leonard Ware 1952
Ernest Ginsberg 1955
Walter R. Christy 1956
John M. Thomas 1958
Thomas A. Vitanza 1958
Leslie H. Cohen 1959
John E. Crowe 1959

1960s

Gerald A. Goldberg 1962
Gerald Stern 1963
Kevin E. Whelan 1963
Robert E. Meshel 1964
Joel J. Goldman 1965
Edward Chertowsky 1966
William H. Miller Jr. 1966
Arthur R. Gaudio 1967
Richard J. Keough 1967
Kevin B. Blaney 1968
David V. DeLuca 1968
John E. Watkins Jr. 1968
Laurence H. Woodward 1968
Francis T. Cuda 1969

1970s

James F. Mock Sr. 1971
John F. Triggs III 1971
John P. DiLauro 1972
Samuel J. Levine 1972
John J. Rizzo 1972
Paul V. Webb Jr. 1972

1970s

David A. Weinstein 1972
F. Evan Black 1973
Michael G. Donnelly 1974
Edward C. Hooks 1974
Robert L. Tisdell Sr. 1974
Richard A. Welder 1974
Edward Z. Menkin 1976
Nancy J. Mierzwa 1976
Frederick H. Monroe 1976
Lyn H. Simon 1976
Kathleen C. Boyle 1977
Leann Kowalski 1979

1980s

Alan S. Drohan 1980
Francis E. Hunt Jr. 1980
Vincent J. Cole 1981
Charles Zolot 1981
James D. Dimassimo 1982
Susan V. John 1983
Edward J. McQuat 1984
Kathryn K. Hoskins 1985
Ronald A. Szot 1986
James V. Parravani 1989

1990s

Janice R. Robinson 1991
Jose Bahamonde-Gonzalez 1992
Lisa P. Sucky 1996
Alycia A. Ziarno 1996

2000s

David B. Jones 2003
Samantha L. Kurkijy 2008
Lindsay H. Roufa 2019

