



DEDICATED LEADERS

IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law alumni employed at SmithAmundsen, LLC know what it means to be dedicated to their alma mater. Through both philanthropic leadership and volunteerism, the group is committed to making Chicago-Kent a national leader in legal education. Many Chicago-Kent alumni are part of the law firm, and they stay involved with the school by serving as adjunct faculty, judging trial competitions, reviewing resumes, and chairing committees that focus on career strategies, strategic planning, and preparing lawyers. But it's their involvement as a group that makes all the difference.

"As a group, this is our opportunity to give back to a school that helped give us our careers," says Larry Schechtman (LAW '83), partner. "We continue to have relationships with faculty. I appreciate going back and seeing that the same people who taught me are still teaching students today, making them into leaders just like they did with me."

Although the firm has a longtime record of giving to Chicago-Kent, the formal partnership between SmithAmundsen and the school began five years ago. The idea for a partnership stemmed from Glen Amundsen (LAW '80), chairman and chief executive officer, and Schechtman. "When we were looking to partner, we considered all the law schools and chose

Chicago-Kent," Schechtman says. "We set up the philanthropic side of the formal program with two main parts: the SmithAmundsen Excellence in Legal Writing Award and the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Team, both harboring the ideals of SmithAmundsen's diversity initiatives."

Amundsen adds, "We have a calling to help build the profession and encourage young people who aspire to be trial lawyers. The firm's work with Chicago-Kent's trial teams and legal writing program is a natural growth of that effort to support the development of talented young lawyers who someday will do what we do."

"Chicago-Kent students are committed to achieving greatness, which means I am constantly learning, refining my own trial skills, and forcing myself to be on top of my game," says Margaret Firnstein (LAW '99). "Who wouldn't want to have the honor of being associated with young minds like that?"

