



Law Firm Challenge Overview

OBJECTIVES

- a) A program designed to give alumni employed at law firms an opportunity to reconnect with their alma mater and promote giving to the Akron Law Dean's Club in a fun, challenging way.
- b) To encourage law firms with multiple Akron Law graduates to achieve 100 percent participation, demonstrating leadership in supporting Akron Law students, faculty and programs.
- c) To assist the Dean's Club in supporting a quality, affordable legal education by helping to cover expenses not met with state funds or tuition.

OVERVIEW

The program is conducted with law firms that have multiple (i.e., two or more) Akron Law alumni. There is no minimum contribution (though suggested giving levels will be introduced), and any gift to Akron Law is counted. Firms with two or more Akron Law graduates are encouraged to participate under the leadership of one or more Chairs. Within each firm, Chairs inspire their colleagues to join together and meet the participation goal during the Akron Law's fiscal year. Chairs have social functions with the Dean and interact with others at Akron Law to keep abreast of current developments, new projects and how their firms can be of assistance.

Firms with 100 percent participation (or the highest level of participation) receive special public recognition, including:

- Signage prominently displayed in West Hall and during on-campus interviews
- Recognition in *Akron Law* Alumni Magazine, Akron Law Web site and E-newsletters

GOALS

a) *Improve annual participation.* The current alumni participation rate is roughly six percent. Top 20 law schools typically have rates in the 30-40 percent range. One factor we can control relevant to accreditation and ranking organizations is increasing the percentage of our alumni giving. Several law schools have seen their law alumni donor participation rates double as a result of firm challenges.

b) *Strengthen and Build a Permanent Network.* Law alumni represent their law firms and Akron Law every day. The challenge is to build a permanent network between the Akron Law and its alumni at the firms for their mutual benefit. The firms benefit by hiring well-equipped Akron Law students and by providing Akron Law with input on programs and curricula that will train even better lawyers. The administration, faculty and student body are able to better leverage the resources and contacts offered by Akron Law's alumni.

Alumni support Akron Law in a number of ways:

- Serving as adjunct professors
- Mock trial and moot court coaches and judges
- Serving on alumni and advisory boards
- Mentoring law students
- Hiring Akron Law students