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# SLU wins fundraising effort among attorneys

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Madison County attorneys raised more than \$23,000, money that will go to helping area residents attend law school. The money will be awarded to five law schools whose alumni participated in the competition this year, including Saint Louis University, University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, University of Missouri, and Washington University.

Saint Louis University won this year's friendly competition by raising \$11,069.

In all, alumni raised more than \$23,000 for the five schools, a record, according to Mary Nalefski, an original member of the Madison County Bar Association's Scholarship Committee.

"This organization should be very proud of our accomplishments, having raised in excess of \$220,000 since the campaign's beginning in 1995,

## Madison County

having established endowed scholarships at SLU and SIU-Carbondale, and being well on our way to establishing a third at the University of Illinois," said Nalefsky, a graduate of Saint Louis University School of Law.

At a ceremony recently at Tony's Restaurant in Alton, the MCBA presented an over-sized check for \$11,069 to SLU School of Law Dean Michael Wolff, Assistant Dean of Development and Alumni Relations Sheridan Haynes and others.

Wolff said that SLU School of Law admissions have increased from last year. The school, he said, is delighted to have the MCBA's support.

"Everybody's telling you 'Don't go to law school.' But we have a very energized, great group of people and we'll be there right-sized within a very short time," Wolff said.

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"We were too big, then we got too small last year. We're getting to the right size now. We have a fabulous faculty and we are really integrated with the profession in the St. Louis area, including Madison and St. Clair County."

The contest itself was conducted on June 26. Attorney Larry Taliana said that the remarkable thing about the meeting was that a couple of courtroom rivals initiated a spirited bidding competition to see who could raise the most money for the MCBA scholarships for their alma mater. Attorney Randi Gori, with Gori Julian and

Associates and Troy Walton, with Schoen, Walton, Telken & Foster led the forces for the Saint Louis University School of Law; Bill Knapp and David Green from Knapp, Ohl and Green fought for SIU- Carbondale's School of Law.

"Just as they have fought in the courtroom, they fought at the June Bar meeting to help raise money for law school scholar-

ships for Madison County students," Taliana wrote in an email.

"In a competition that drew speeches and table-to-table lobbying, \$10,986 was raised for the Saint Louis University School of Law and \$8,035 was raised for SIU Law School. Money was also raised for the University of Missouri, the University of Illinois, and Washington University schol-

arship programs."

The Scholarship Committee was formed following a talk in 1993 at Rusty's Restaurant by SIU School of Law Dean Haynesworth. He noted the soaring cost of law school and encouraged the MCBA to start a campaign of group philanthropy to assist Madison

County residents who were students at SIU. The committee requested donations from the MCBA members who donated money in the name of their alma mater. All money raised went to Madison County residents who were students at one of the five law schools.