Dear Campus Colleagues,

Many of you may have seen today’s exciting news about a $10 million gift that will transform the University of Montana School of Law and position it for the future. Today, a proposal is going before the Montana Board of Regents to approve the naming of the law school in recognition of this gift, as well as the many invaluable contributions of Alexander “Zander” Blewett III and his family to the School of Law, the legal community in the state of Montana, and public education in general. The proposal would rename the School of Law the “Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana” in his honor.

Zander and his wife, Andy, have given the School a gift of $10 million to create an endowed chair in consumer law and protection with endowed programmatic support in that area and access to justice, provide $1.5 million for the Access to Legal Education Scholarship Fund, and create an endowed discretionary fund for general law school support. The scholarship donation is structured as a giving challenge. For every gift of at least $500 that others give toward law scholarships, the Blewetts will match those donations with an equal contribution to the Access to Legal Education Scholarship Fund, up to a total of $1.5 million. If the challenge is met, new scholarship donations will total $3 million.

The Blewetts’ transformational gift will nearly double the size of the law school’s endowment. This marks a historic moment for the School of Law and UM. The Board of Regents will consider the proposal today and take an official vote on Friday. I invite you to watch the School of Law, UM, and UMF homepages for additional details, beginning this evening, after a scheduled news conference in Kalispell where the Board of Regents is meeting.

Sincerely,

Royce C. Engstrom
President