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# Spirit of the Law

## Christopher Schraff '65

Gay Eyerman



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In 1961 Chris Schraff was a freshman at Saint Ignatius – and the world was a different place. “It was the calm before the storm,” Schraff recalls. “We weren’t far into the 1960s turmoil yet. We were among the last of the classes to share our parents’ belief that you work hard, go to school, get a great job and life will be okay. We graduated and found things were more challenging than we expected.”

Schraff rose to the challenge – and then some. He knew how to work hard, paying his own tuition with an after-school job as a messenger for Jones Day law firm in downtown Cleveland. He went on to earn a bachelor’s degree from John Carroll University and his law degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School. Schraff is now an attorney with Porter Wright in Columbus, Ohio where he was named Environmental Lawyer of the Year by *Best Lawyers*® in 2010.

Coming from Cleveland’s east side, Schraff says Saint Ignatius, “opened my eyes to kids from all over the city.” He was part of the debate team and was inspired by teachers like Mr. Fleck in Latin, who “gently prodded me to work harder, with competitions between homerooms,” and Fr. James Von Tobel. “He was a great role model for young men. He ran a tight ship in the classroom

but would also shoot baskets with us.”

In the 1960s, Schraff describes the “Men for Others” culture as a feeling of being connected to other students, all carrying a heavy academic load. “But it was not just about us. In our sodality, we did works of charity and prayer.”

While still in college, Schraff served on the Saint Ignatius Alumni Council. “I couldn’t contribute financially at that point, but it made me aware of students in need. When I was successful as a professional, I started making annual contributions and funding a life insurance policy for the school as part of my estate plan.” An avid reader of history and biographies, Schraff also loves donating books to the school library.

“If you’ve been fortunate in life and accumulated assets, it only makes sense to make a financial impact for those who need help,” Schraff believes. “Not just impoverished families but even the middle class struggle to pay for a Saint Ignatius education. That’s an incentive to me.”

Schraff finds great reward in funding a legacy that will continue when he is gone. “I’m not sure I’d be where I am now without Saint Ignatius High School. It was wonderful preparation for life after high school – for college, setting goals, building discipline. It was an educational foundation for life.”

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