



The Most to Gain, the Most to Give

The Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program will eliminate tuition for students with the highest need.

In February, the Law School reached a significant moment in its history when Dean Heather K. Gerken announced the establishment of **the Soledad '92 and Robert Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program**, which erases tuition for students whose families fall below the federal poverty line.

The transformational program enhances the Law School's already robust financial aid offerings with a first-of-its-kind scholarship that seeks to level the playing field for students with significant financial need, enabling them to pursue their dreams. Starting next month, approximately 45 to 50 current students, including incoming 1Ls and current 2 and 3Ls, will benefit from the tuition-free scholarship.

"The Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program will free students with the greatest need from financial worry during law school and open up a world of possibilities so that they can be a powerful force for change in society," said Gerken, who made establishing this program one of the core priorities of her first term as Dean.

Initially, Gerken said, she expected it would take several more years to reach this goal, but the Law School committed funds to launch immediately, and the program has been bolstered and endowed thanks to the incredible generosity of the founding donors — Soledad '92 and Robert Hurst, David '78 and Patricia Nierenberg, and Gene '73 and Carol Ludwig. As a result, the scholarship program will not only help students in New Haven now, it will continue on for generations. The Law School continues to fundraise as part of an ongoing campaign, seeking to expand the threshold and open the door for even more students in the future.

"We are committed to opening our doors to those students who have the most to gain from this School and the most to give to the world, regardless of their means."

DEAN HEATHER K. GERKEN

The impact of these new scholarships is already being felt keenly by the first cohort of recipients. "Students with the greatest needs face many pressures that may not be apparent to others," said a rising 3L recipient of the scholarship. "I've noticed that many come into law school with the hope of going into public interest to assist people like themselves, yet end up realizing that even this top education and the opportunities it provides cannot truly free them. The Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program will allow students with the greatest need to feel the reward of getting into an institution like YLS by having a freer choice in choosing their career."

Yale Law School has always led the way in financial aid and is, to this day, one of only two law schools in the U.S. to provide aid based exclusively on financial need. Yale Law School graduates have one of the lowest debt loads among its peers. But as an institution that has, according to Dean Gerken, "a restless gene," there was a call to do even more.

"The Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program cements our commitment to equity and access, and I hope it will lead to a sea change across the legal education landscape to ensure those with the greatest need receive the most aid," said Gerken.

Since 2016, the Law School has admitted the six most diverse classes in its history. In the Class of 2024, more than a quarter of students are the first in their family to attend graduate or professional school and approximately one in six students are the first in their family to graduate from college. With these changes, the financial difference between those with and without a family safety net has become more pronounced. "Even with significant need-based financial aid awards and our loan repayment program, the financial burden can weigh heavily, and many students fear debt knowing that they are responsible for their families' financial well-being as well as their own," said Miriam Ingber '04, Associate Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid.

Students who qualify for the Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program will be awarded more than \$70,000 per year to cover the cost of tuition, fees, and health insurance, significantly lowering their debt load and financial burden. Those who meet the criteria will automatically receive the scholarship.

Rakim Brooks '16, co-founder of the student group First Generation Professionals, commended Dean Gerken for establishing the scholarships and said he would have been empowered to make different choices if he had a full-tuition scholarship: "I would've taken more chances in law school had the debt not been present," said Brooks. "I would have opted for certain internships during the summer and broadened my horizons. I would've learned more about the legal profession while I was at Yale Law School had the debt or the specter of debt not been present."

For the first cohort of Hurst Horizon Scholars, the scholarship has brought a sense of relief, joy, and hope that its impact will extend well beyond their own experiences. "It is wonderful that such a program now exists, which makes my own future in law feel less burdensome and more open," said a rising 3L recipient of the scholarship. "But beyond how grateful I am for this support, I am even more excited for future classes of applicants now able to pursue a path that may have previously seemed out of reach." 🌟

Read about the generous founding donors on the next page.



Removing Barriers to the Full Yale Law Experience The Soledad '92 and Robert Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program

One of the pillars of Yale Law School's "For Humanity" campaign is student support. From need-based financial aid to the Career Options Assistance Program, the Law School wants its students to have the best experience during their three years here and into their careers. We've expanded those tools now to include the Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program.

The Soledad '92 and Robert Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program, which was announced in February 2022, provides full-tuition scholarships for students who come from economically disadvantaged families. Scholarships enable recipients to fully participate in all Yale Law experiences and build the careers they choose. Accepted students who meet the financial requirements will automatically receive the scholarship, beginning in the 2022-23 academic year.

Dean Heather K. Gerken is intensely grateful to the founding donors of the program: Soledad and Robert Hurst, David '75 BA, '78 JD and Patricia Nierenberg, and Gene '73 and Carol Ludwig. "These extraordinary leaders have made an investment that will change the lives of generations of students. I am humbled by their commitment to this School and our students," said Gerken. "I look forward to working with our community to grow this important program in the years to come. This is only the beginning." 🌟



Soledad '92 and Robert Hurst Taking Nothing for Granted

"Meeting me today, you would have no idea of my background," said Soledad Hurst '92. She and her husband, Robert (Bob), both led very successful careers and are now dedicated philanthropists living in Aspen. Yet the couple's gift to establish the Soledad '92 and Robert Hurst Horizon



Soledad Hurst

Scholarship Program arose in part from Soledad's direct experience growing up in a climate of financial hardship — including the stress of acquiring a law degree with no financial safety net.

She and Bob are deeply honored to be able to establish the Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program: by funding full Yale Law School tuition for students with family incomes below

the national poverty line, the Program allows these students to take advantage of all the opportunities a Yale Law School education offers.

"These students' experiences are completely different," noted Soledad. "There are some incredibly bright people out there, who given the chance, can do great things for this world. And they don't take the opportunity for granted." Her own experience across worlds — rich and poor; growing up in a multiracial household in Springfield, Oregon; watching everyone in her family fight the odds to gain an education — has made her a firm believer in the empathy, drive, and perspective these students bring.

After graduating from Yale Law School, Soledad started her career at the international law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell. She then worked as an investment banker at Allen & Company and later worked on-air for Bloomberg Television — a career she admits she might have begun earlier had she the financial freedom to explore it.

Bob Hurst also made his way to success despite modest origins. He spent three decades at Goldman Sachs, and for 10 of those years was the head or co-head of the Investment Banking Division, Vice Chairman, and a member of its board of directors. In 2001, he took a leave of absence to become founding CEO of the 9/11 United Services Group, which coordinated 13 agencies, including the Red Cross, involved in disaster relief. Currently, he is Vice Chairman of Crestview Partners, a private equity firm.

Between them, the Hursts are squarely focused on both nonprofit leadership and helping at the community level, with untiring energy and great empathy. With this gift, they hope to enable brilliant students to unleash their full power.

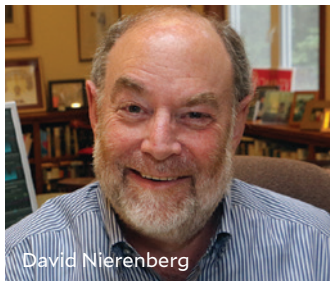
David '75 BA, '78 JD and Patricia Nierenberg One Life at a Time

"I'm at a point in my life where I can't think of many better ways to change the world than one life at a time," said David Nierenberg '75 BA, '78 JD. He and his wife, Patricia, gave the first ever gift to the Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program early in its development — a gift that is already having a major ripple effect.

For David and Patricia Nierenberg, that ripple effect is far more important than wealth or property.

"I make the gifts I'm making, as does my wife, out of gratitude for people who have done wonderful things for us in our lives," said David. For him, that gratitude encompasses many people connected with Yale Law as well as the institution itself.

David started his career at the management consulting company Bain & Co. in 1978, a career in which he was championed and mentored by Mitt Romney. The two remain



David Nierenberg

close to this day, and Nierenberg served as one of the national financial chairs for Romney's 2012 presidential campaign. After leaving Bain in 1985, Nierenberg became a venture capitalist, a career that has seen everything from

public-private partnerships to a drawn-out but eventually victorious Supreme Court case. He is now Founder and President of Nierenberg Investment Management Company and a noted philanthropist.

David recently served on the board of Whitman College, where he co-led efforts to assist economically disadvantaged students. He saw firsthand the struggles of students who had to figure out financial aid on their own, refrain from participating in certain classes due to the extra expenditures required, or miss the joy of celebrating when their families couldn't attend their graduations. Before the school intervened, "All of these micro-insults caused a great deal of unhappiness and stress," he noted.

After that experience, "I was predisposed to be helpful when Dean Gerken told me about the Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program and asked for my involvement. For a person who comes without resources, the stress of getting into Yale Law School, staying in Yale Law School, and doing well can be tremendous. I'd like to think that what I'm doing is paying it forward for the benefit of future generations whose national service, stepping into the shoes of many other Yale Law School graduates over two centuries, can make the country and the world a better place."

Gene '73 and Carol Ludwig Focusing on the Fair Shake



Gene and Carol Ludwig

"The law itself is about giving everybody a fair shake," said Gene Ludwig '73. "If that is what we think we're teaching at law school — that everyone should be treated equally before the law — we must treat students equally by making sure each one can get the finest legal education."

Today, Gene and his wife Carol, a neurologist, are building on their longstanding generosity to Yale Law School by establishing The Carol and Gene Ludwig Family Foundation

Horizon Scholarship Fund, part of the new Hurst Horizon Scholarship Program. This gift follows others from the Ludwigs including funding both the Ludwig Center for Community and Economic Development and the Carol and Gene Ludwig Program in Public Sector Leadership.

Gene, the Founder of the Promontory family of companies and Co-managing Partner of Canapi Ventures, has long been focused on giving people a fair shake. As U.S. Comptroller of the Currency from 1993 to 1998, Gene served as the Clinton administration's point person on the policy response to the credit crunch of the early 1990s. Under his purview, lending to low- and moderate-income Americans increased tenfold, as did national bank investments in community development corporations. He brought 27 fair-lending cases, resulting in tens of millions of dollars in fines against violators. In 2019, he founded The Ludwig Institute for Shared Economic Prosperity, which is dedicated to improving the economic well-being of middle- and lower-income Americans. Gene's book, *The Vanishing American Dream: A Frank Look at the Economic Realities Facing Middle- and Lower-Income Americans*, shares insights garnered from a bipartisan group of the nation's foremost economic thinkers.

Carol is President of the Carol and Gene Ludwig Family Foundation, which supports medical research and educational opportunities for low- and moderate-income students. She also serves on the Board of KIPP-DC and on the Council of Medical Advisors for the Columbia University Irvine Medical Center, where she is part of the Neurology Advisory and Medical Education Committees and the Precision Medicine Council.

"Opportunity for education shouldn't be about how much money you have in your pocket," said Gene. "Merit, energy, and enthusiasm should drive access; otherwise you are denying your school the opportunity to have some of the most talented people."