



'Small' Torkin Manes Classroom will be 'Big' on Community Spirit

OSGOODE

OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL
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Just walking through the door of Torkin Manes it's obvious: the firm is about community. The plaques in the reception area pay tribute to the firm's philanthropy, which has been generous, but there is also a strong sense of community within the firm. It is apparent from the laughter and gentle teasing that the partners all like each other and get along very well.

"It's a great place to come to work and we are all very proud of what the firm has achieved," said Jeffrey Cohen '84, managing partner. "There is no doubt that a part of our success can be attributed to the education we received at law school and we are glad that we are able to participate in this Osgoode project."

The firm's gift of \$100,000 to The Building Osgoode Campaign for the creation of the 50 to 60-seat Torkin Manes Classroom is perfectly attuned to today's way of teaching. Gone are the days when vast windowless classrooms were the norm. The best law schools in North America today, and this also holds true for a number of other academic disciplines as well, are moving to smaller classes that emphasize hands-on, interactive, collaborative learning.

"As our curriculum has changed over the years we have had a greater need for seminar rooms and mid-size classrooms that bring professors and students together in a way that traditional lecture courses never could," remarked Interim Dean Jinyan Li. "This gift will allow us to construct a space in our new building that is absolutely perfect for our needs."

Ron Manes '71, founding partner of Torkin Manes and the first president of the Osgoode Alumni Association, remembers when the School's building was state-of-the-art. He appreciates, though, that time has taken its toll on the Osgoode building and that it currently does not meet the needs of a modern law school program.

"There is something very special about a strong community," Manes said. "It knits individuals together in a way that contributes to the greater whole. We hope that the Torkin Manes Classroom will contribute to bringing faculty and students closer together and make the learning experience at Osgoode that much better."