

**I**ra C. Rothgerber, Jr. ('35), 1913–1993  
 There simply has been no greater friend to the University of Colorado School of Law than Ira C. Rothgerber, Jr. For that matter, there has been no greater friend to the entire university. As CU's single largest benefactor, he gave \$8 million in gifts to the Law School and the Health Sciences Center, where he helped establish a cancer research center. His gifts to the Law School have included the endowment of the Rothgerber Chair in Constitutional Law, a contribution to the expansion of the Law Library in 1972, which resulted in a new addition named in memory of his parents, and the establishment of the Rothgerber Moor Court Competition

to honor his father. His bequest of \$1.8 million established the Byron R. White Center for American Constitutional Study in honor of his good friend, the U.S. Supreme Court justice.

Rothgerber gave to the Law School in small ways, too, because he loved the school and its students. Whenever the occasion arose, he hired CU law students to do odd jobs, such as tending bar at his parties. One often-told story about him recalls how he frequented a particular gas station because a CU law student worked there—and he made sure to fill his tank during the student's shift.

Born in Denver and a lifelong Colorado resident, Ira Rothgerber received both his undergraduate and legal education at CU. Upon graduation in 1935, he joined his father's law firm, now known as Rothgerber, Appel, Powers & Johnson LLP. Ira Rothgerber was an accomplished banking and trial lawyer with extremely high standards. He has been described as "one of the best lawyers Colorado has ever known." He taught law briefly at the University of Denver and at CU after serving in the Pacific during World War II. He chaired a Colorado State Supreme Court committee on civil jury instructions and was a long-term member of an appellate rules advisory com-



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mittee of the U.S. Judicial Conference. He was 80 years old when he died in 1993, after practicing law for more than 40 years. His death was a great loss; many of his lifelong friends gathered at the Glenn Miller Ballroom on the CU campus to celebrate his life.

Ira Rothgerber was known not only for his generosity to the Law School but also for his humanity, which manifested itself in his magnificent sense of humor, cheer, and friendship with the people of the Law School. Peggy Cook, director of development for the Law School, spoke for many when she said that he was "an extraordinary person, generous with all his gifts—his time, talent, and devotion to the University." Speaking of Ira's contributions, former Dean Gene Nichol stated, "He has, quite literally, changed the character and the quality of this institution in remarkable ways." He is remembered as the Law School's most generous benefactor and friend.

*"Ira Rothgerber was truly dedicated to CU. Whenever anyone went to Ira to ask for his support, he would thank that individual for giving him an opportunity to help."*

—Charlie McCord, President of the CU Foundation