

00:00 (soft music)

00:11 [DAVID SARGENT] George was a student of mine,

00:14 and he was a standout student,

00:15 always eager to find out why, and always eager to learn.

00:21 And I got to know him after law school even more than I did

00:25 in the institution.

00:26 And he's just a first rate guy, wonderful disposition.

00:31 Everybody likes him.

00:34 (soft music)

00:48 [ANDREW PERLMAN] George and Ann have been especially generous

00:52 to Suffolk University Law School,

00:54 and particularly our students committing more

00:56 than a million dollars to support them.

00:59 But an honor like this one also recognizes

01:02 George's accomplished and impressive career

01:05 since he graduated from Suffolk Law in 1975.

01:10 I am personally grateful to George for his membership

01:13 in the law school's dean's cabinet,

01:15 giving me strategic advice that has taken the law school

01:18 to new heights in recent years,

01:21 including our highest ever overall ranking

01:23 and the best ever employment outcomes for our graduates.

01:27 Despite all of George's many successes,

01:31 he has never forgotten his roots.

01:33 He, like so many Suffolk Law students past and present,

01:38 came from a family that valued education.

01:42 Both he and Ann have long recognized

01:45 the ways in which higher education can fuel success

01:49 in people's lives and careers.

01:52 For this reason,

01:53 they have consistently sought to pave the way

01:56 for others to pursue higher education themselves,  
01:59 especially those who have fewer financial resources.  
02:03 In light of those commitments it is no surprise  
02:06 that they have created the George Keches Scholarship Fund  
02:09 to support law students who are from Massachusetts,  
02:13 the first in their families to go to college,  
02:16 and have demonstrated financial need.  
02:19 George and Ann are also establishing  
02:21 the Thomas Healy Endowed Scholarship Fund  
02:24 in honor of George's friend and Suffolk Law alum, Tom Healy.  
02:28 George and Ann, your stories  
02:31 are the reason we do the work here at Suffolk Law.  
02:35 So on behalf of Suffolk University Law School,  
02:37 it is our honor to be naming this room after you,  
02:42 and we are deeply grateful for your support  
02:45 which will be changing the lives  
02:47 of Suffolk Law students for generations to come.  
02:51 [EDWARD MARKEY] I have known George  
02:54 for now coming up to nearly 50 years.  
03:00 George and I have been friends,  
03:02 two of us, just young guys up in the state house,  
03:07 and knowing that if we worked hard  
03:11 we could potentially maximize our God given abilities.  
03:17 When George was up there,  
03:19 he was actually going to Suffolk Law School  
03:21 as I was just a very, very, very new state representative  
03:27 on the judiciary committee in the state house.  
03:31 And I will tell you,  
03:32 right from the very beginning you could tell  
03:35 that George was special.  
03:37 George was smart. George had vision.

03:41 And so right from the very beginning,  
03:43 George and I became friends.  
03:45 And I just wanna tell you that over all of these years  
03:49 it's been my honor to be his friend  
03:55 and his partner in so many things.  
03:58 So I just wanna say to you, George, and to Ann,  
04:04 thank you for all you do  
04:05 to make our world a more just place in which to live.  
04:09 And in the spirit of passing this favor unto others,  
04:14 others like George and I who were the first people  
04:17 in our families to go to college, and to law school.  
04:22 And I know that this is the greatest gift  
04:27 that anyone can pass on.  
04:30 And it's just so typical of George,  
04:33 that this is the way  
04:34 in which he would want to make a difference.  
04:38 George and Ann,  
04:40 driven by their passion to level the playing field  
04:43 and ensure all have access to a legal education.  
04:47 They represent the best of Massachusetts  
04:49 through their commitment to service and philanthropy.  
04:52 [KARYN POLITO] I see this as a full circle moment for George and  
04:56 Ann.  
04:57 They care about people,  
04:59 they care about relationships,  
05:01 and in relationships you have the ability  
05:03 to help more people.  
05:06 And we all know if we needed to help someone  
05:09 that we couldn't help ourselves,  
05:11 we all called George,  
05:13 and George can inevitably find that path to make sure

05:17 that someone gets that opportunity to do something.  
05:21 There's no question that what drove Ann and George  
05:25 throughout their life was the desire to work hard,  
05:29 but knowing that they could have opportunity  
05:32 and achieve their dreams.  
05:34 The speaker before us said,  
05:36 "Money shouldn't be the barrier  
05:38 to achieving your dreams, right?"  
05:41 That is so true, but not so real  
05:44 for a whole lot of people  
05:46 with a whole lot of talent and diversity of experiences  
05:50 to give to us here in this Commonwealth.  
05:52 And with this beautiful program,  
05:56 there'll be so many more that will.  
05:59 George Keches and Ann Maguire Keches,  
06:02 we are so proud and honored to honor you,  
06:05 which is a rare occasion for us,  
06:08 to just simply say thank you for being our friend,  
06:12 thank you for making this Commonwealth better,  
06:15 and thank you for investing  
06:17 in young people who just have dreams  
06:20 that they want to see come true.  
06:22 [STEPHEN LYNCH] I wanna thank Suffolk Law School  
06:25 for honoring my friends in this fashion  
06:28 and for all the work that you do on a daily basis,  
06:32 improving the quality of legal education  
06:34 in the Commonwealth.  
06:35 We're surrounded by young attorneys all over this room,  
06:40 Sean Flaherty and others, who had the great benefit I think  
06:45 of learning the practice of law  
06:48 under George and Ann's tutelage.

06:51 And they approach their profession  
06:53 in much the same energetic and relentless fashion  
06:58 that our two honorees have practiced  
07:00 during their professional lives,  
07:02 the same embodiment of tenacity and energy  
07:04 that was the trademark of our honorees.  
07:08 And we have also the generous legacy  
07:09 that George and Ann have bestowed  
07:11 upon young aspiring students here at Suffolk Law School.  
07:15 And I'm sure that just like George and Ann,  
07:20 it will make a tremendous difference.  
07:23 [KERIMAL SURIEL GUERRERO] So I wanna thank George Keches and his  
07:25 wife, Ann,  
07:26 for their incredibly generous donation  
07:29 to this wonderful institution.  
07:31 This donation is a great reflection of humanity,  
07:34 and I'm extremely grateful and honored  
07:36 to be the student speaker here today,  
07:38 because of how personal this matters to me.  
07:41 I want nothing more than to have the ability  
07:43 to follow in your footsteps one day  
07:46 and support my alma mater just as you are doing.  
07:49 And as Alexander Smith put it,  
07:51 "A man doesn't plant a tree for himself,  
07:54 he plants it for posterity."  
07:56 I am inspired by your actions.  
07:59 So from the bottom of my heart,  
08:00 thank you for everything you have done  
08:02 for the Suffolk Law community  
08:03 and the Suffolk University community at large.  
08:07 [GEORGE KECHES, ESQ.] Well, thank you President Kelly, Dean Perlman,

08:11 Steve, Lieutenant Governor Polito, Eddie Markey,  
08:16 and havin' Dean Sargent here, what a thrill.  
08:19 What a thrill because I'm not so sure  
08:21 I would be here today giving this gift  
08:24 to Suffolk Law School were it not for his good deeds  
08:28 as our dean, and as our president of the university.  
08:31 A truly remarkable man.  
08:34 I've been so fortunate in life.  
08:36 I have founded a law firm with 55 attorneys from one.  
08:42 150 staff people.  
08:43 Haven't done it by myself.  
08:46 I've been lucky enough to mentor young attorneys.  
08:48 I've had a great opportunity  
08:50 to see people grow, become good attorneys,  
08:53 and good citizens.  
08:55 And that gives me a immense amount of pleasure  
08:58 and satisfaction during my life.  
09:00 And to think that a legacy will continue to endure  
09:05 with the scholarships that are being given  
09:08 and the opportunity  
09:09 for individuals who might not have their wherewithal  
09:13 to go to law school and to practice the profession  
09:16 and to level the playing field to some extent  
09:20 is very, very, very satisfying.  
09:22 And it's just been a wonderful, wonderful career.  
09:26 I've never had a bad job.  
09:28 I just wanna thank my family,  
09:30 all of my friends that have come up here  
09:31 from around the country.  
09:34 And most of all, the person who I would not be here but for,  
09:38 and that's my wife Ann.

09:40 (audience clapping) (audience member whistling)

09:50 Ann Maguire, one of the most talented trial attorneys

09:53 in the 80s,

09:55 was one of the two female attorneys who broke the ceiling

09:59 in practicing litigation law in the 80s.

10:01 The other was a graduate of Suffolk Law School, Liz Moltey.

10:05 And she...

10:08 And I still remember being on the front cover

10:11 of the globe in the Boston Herald.

10:12 They had a big picture of both.

10:14 They both hit seven figure cases on the same day.

10:20 And it was obviously news among the bar and the public

10:24 at that point in time.

10:26 She continued to practice in the 80s.

10:29 I was not making a lot of money at that point in time,

10:33 and without her financial success, and yes,

10:36 she was making a lot more money than I was

10:38 at that period of time, (audience laughing)

10:39 I would not have been able to launch my firm

10:42 because I had other obligations that needed supporting

10:47 and it was difficult to take that chance.

10:49 But with her support, I was able to do that.

10:52 And she's been a wonderful partner, wife,

10:55 mother to our children.

10:56 I have been so fortunate in my lifetime with her by my side,

11:02 and I just wanna thank her.

11:04 (audience clapping)

11:05 So I just wanna thank everybody for coming today,

11:08 and I am so, so grateful

11:12 for everybody that has appeared here today

11:14 and my good friends, Stephen Lynch, Lieutenant Governor,

11:17 Ed Markey, and Dean Sargent.

11:19 Thank you so much for being here. Thank you.

11:21 [MARISA KELLY] As we get ready to dedicate this room, my personal

11:24 thanks

11:25 on behalf of the university to both you, George,

11:29 and Ann for the incredible gift and legacy

11:32 that you are giving to us and to so many students.

11:36 One more round of applause, please.

11:38 (audience clapping)

11:46 And so, for our official dedication

11:49 there's a plaque outside this room that reads,

11:53 "The George N. Keches room is hereby named

11:56 in grateful recognition of the philanthropic leadership

12:01 of George N. Keches, Esquire, JD class of '75,

12:06 and Ann Marie Maguire Keches, Esquire.

12:11 This room will be an enduring tribute

12:13 to their generous support of Suffolk Law School

12:17 and their legacy that will live at Suffolk

12:19 and positively impact the lives of current

12:22 and future students for generations to come.

12:26 Dedicated and named this 25th of May, 2022."

12:31 Dean Perlman, and George and Ann,

12:34 will you please now do the honors.

12:38 (bright upbeat music)

12:41 (audience clapping)

13:27 (bright upbeat music continues)