Innovation.

Its catalyst is passion—a combination of imagination and persistence that inspires certain people to look forward and go beyond what is. It is the process of looking at the world through a different lens to find solutions to big problems. It leads to new products and novel approaches to doing business. Innovation is one of the most powerful societal and economic engines we have—and it needs a special type of fuel.
A Tradition of Distinctive Strengths

IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law is a unique and influential law school at the forefront of legal education. Long before critics asserted that law schools were offering too little value to students, Chicago-Kent stood out among its peers by combining practical skills training with a rigorous, theoretical approach to legal education. This approach has produced skilled lawyers who are equally at home in the courtroom or in the boardroom. We hear from law firms time and again that our graduates are better prepared than those from more highly ranked law schools.

Chicago-Kent’s vaunted legal writing program is not only the most comprehensive in the nation, but it also embraced technology long before computers were commonplace. We boast the only fee-generating clinic in the country, in which students apprentice side by side with professor practitioners. Our program in intellectual property continues to be nationally recognized.

IIT Chicago-Kent’s Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Courtroom has provided the first step for thousands of successful litigators.

Chicago-Kent’s public interest initiatives have made a difference. Students volunteer countless hours on a variety of projects around the city. Our commitment to public service has combined with technology to produce innovation through the work of the Center for Access to Justice and Technology, which makes it possible for those without means to use computer-based systems to represent themselves.

The center’s A2J Author software is used in 40 states and four countries.

From its early adoption of computer-assisted legal instruction to the most comprehensive legal writing and advocacy programs in the United States, Chicago-Kent has never been a follower.

Unique and Influential

Our alumni know firsthand the value of a Chicago-Kent education. Chicago-Kent graduates are leaders on the bench, in government, and in law firms across the country. Two current members of Congress, a justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, members of the federal bench, and numerous heads of law firms and public-interest agencies are alumni. Similarly, Chicago-Kent faculty are shaping academic debates on the leading issues of the day, from genetic patents and regulation of mutual funds to water rights and land restoration in developing countries.

In too many circles, the law school’s reputation lags behind this reality. Support now from alumni and friends can enable us to propel Chicago-Kent to the national prominence it deserves.

Initiatives to Extend Our Influence

Expand our Faculty of National Prominence: With the investiture of the Ralph Brill Endowed Chair in September 2011, Chicago-Kent achieved its first endowed faculty position. Alone among our peers, we lack endowed chairs, which are critical to attracting and retaining world-class teacher-scholars. Our goal is to create new endowed professorships in areas such as intellectual property and financial services to help us attract and retain outstanding faculty in targeted disciplines.

Establish and Strengthen Strategic Centers of Excellence: The development of new distinctive programs will shine a light on Chicago-Kent by building on our historic strengths. We propose to create at least three new centers: the Center on Intellectual Property; the Center for Information, Society, and Policy; and the Center for Public Interest Law. These new centers, along with enhancements to existing academic institutes and centers, will establish the law school’s well-deserved national reputation for excellence through the promotion of research and influence in the policy arena while creating unique programming for students.

Recruit Top-Notch Students in a Competitive Environment: Students with strong credentials are attracted to Chicago-Kent because of our well-known programs in intellectual property, trial advocacy, and the workplace, energy and sustainability, and financial services, but many applicants may choose schools with less attractive programs if they cannot shoulder the full cost of a legal education. To continue to compete for outstanding and diverse students, we must increase our resources for scholarship support.

Create Twenty-First Century Facilities for Advocacy: We have attained unparalleled success in trial and appellate advocacy over the past five years. In the national championship competition, trial teams from Chicago-Kent have won twice and finished within the top four teams nationally two more times, and three students have been named best oralist in the country. Appellate advocacy teams have worked assiduously to keep up, also garnering two national crowns during that period. We must expand and enhance the facilities, however, to continue the momentum; our teams cannot readily find suitable venues for practicing, and our Marovitz Courtroom is not sufficient by itself to permit us to host national tournaments and extend our stellar program.

Propel Chicago-Kent to National Prominence

It’s time for others to learn what alumni already know. IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law is a unique and influential law school at the forefront of legal education. Now is the time to invest strategically to maintain our distinctive educational approach while ensuring that the reputation, accomplishments, and innovations of Chicago-Kent are recognized nationally, at a level commensurate with their impact on the profession and in the greater community.

We need your partnership in this landmark campaign for Chicago-Kent.