



BULLDOG BILL

Successful Attorney Serves Passionately, Bleeds Drake Blue

While many of his cases have been multi-million-dollar suits with national — and occasionally international — interest, Bill Drury, AS'73, LW '77, considers his legal career to be about learning new things. For instance, Drury hired a PhD electrical engineer to tutor him on the intricacies of electrical current in preparation for a product liability defense case he tried (and won) for TASER International. “To cross-examine expert witnesses, to go toe-to-toe with them — that’s where the challenge is,” Drury says. “Every case takes you into something new.”

As senior partner at Renaud Cook Drury Mesaros, PA in Phoenix, Drury is lead counsel on three or four major trials annually — spending as many as 80 to 100 days in the courtroom some years. The firm specializes in defending civil lawsuits, including major product liability and medical malpractice cases. “Courtroom litigation is a combination of selling, persuading and strategizing,” Drury says. “It’s challenging, and that’s what attracted me to the law.”

A FAMILY LEGACY: Watching Drake play UCLA in the 1969 NCAA basketball tournament got Drury excited about becoming a Bulldog. “I saw the enthusiasm of this little school from Des Moines, and I knew I wanted to find out more about Drake.” He credits his years in the Midwest for making him the lawyer and person he is today. “I met people from all walks of life, made life-long

friends and got a great education in undergrad and law school,” he says. Getting involved with Drake’s National Alumni Association (including serving as its current president) inspired Drury to introduce his daughters to the University. “Truthfully, I probably oversold Drake,” Drury says. “But once I got them on campus, they saw for themselves what Drake was like, and they wanted to come.” With three of his four daughters having attended or currently attending Drake, the Drury clan (including two son-in-laws) boasts a total of six Drake degrees. Drury also serves on the Board of Trustees. His daughter Michelle is a first year law student at Drake.

A HISTORY OF SERVICE: Drury’s commitment to helping organizations he’s passionate about stretches back to his early days as a lawyer in Phoenix when he co-founded the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America. After seeing the group grant its very first wish, Drury knew he wanted to be involved. “I could see this charity had tremendous potential and I wanted to help them take it to the next level,” Drury says. Serving on the board of the now internationally known philanthropy, Drury not only contributed legal expertise, he also guided the expansion of the organization to chapters throughout North America, which granted hundreds of wishes from 1979 until he retired from the board in 1989. “The opportunity to create a brand new charity is wonderful,” Drury says. “I was in the right place at the right time.”