



# NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Hatfield Presidential Scholarship established by local law firm**

Evansville law firm Fine & Hatfield has established a \$20,000 presidential scholarship at the University of Southern Indiana in memory of Joe S. Hatfield, a retired law partner who died in 1993.

"The Hatfield Presidential Scholarship will be a tribute to a highly-respected attorney who practiced law in Evansville for nearly 50 years," said Suzanne Nicholson, president of the USI Foundation.

Hatfield served as legal counsel for the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation for 23 years. He also was past president of the Evansville Bar Association, past president and fellow of the Indiana State Bar Association, and a house of delegates member and fellow of the American Bar Association.

A master trial lawyer, Hatfield was a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, whose membership is limited to no more than one percent of the practicing attorneys in a state.

The law partners agreed that the firm wanted to invest in the community that supports their endeavors and they wanted to invest in the next generation. Thomas R. Fitzsimmons, managing partner, said, "This scholarship is important because it attracts good students to USI and good people to Evansville."

Law partner Danny E. Glass said, "What Joe Hatfield stood for in this community should not be forgotten. He had integrity and his opponents respected him. I doubt he ever made an enemy. He was a mentor to me and my generation. He was a gentleman. With this scholarship we can continue to honor the man."

"A man who loved the law," is how partner Thomas H. Bryan remembers Hatfield. "He guided those new to the profession like a teacher and he often used personal experiences to enlighten young lawyers." A devoted family man, Hatfield's distinguished career was lauded by Evansville attorneys when they presented him the 1981 James Bethel Gresham Freedom Award for his scholarly and innovative work.

The Hatfield Presidential Scholarship will join other named presidential scholarships in bringing to the USI campus students who finish first or second in their high school graduating class. The full four-year scholarship provides for fees, books, and room and board. Currently 76 presidential scholars attend the University of Southern Indiana.