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**Title:** Peirce College Launches Professor Edwin B. Miller Memorial Scholarship

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## MCPA TODAY NEWSLETTER

### PEIRCE COLLEGE LAUNCHES PROFESSOR EDWIN B. MILLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

For the Philadelphia-area legal community, Peirce College and Professor Ed Miller, J.D., went hand-in-hand. As the head of the College's Legal Studies programs for 16 years before his passing in December 2016, his dedication to the industry and to helping his students reach their fullest potential was legendary.



And now, that spirit will live on in the form of the **Professor Edwin B. Miller Memorial Scholarship**. Retired Peirce professor Glenn Barnes, J.D.; Dr. Ruth Shaber, founder and president of the Tara Health Foundation; and current Peirce professors Cynthia Gentile, J.D. and Ivy Kempf, J.D. have pledged a 4-to-1 match, up to \$160,000, for every dollar given to the scholarship through December 31, 2017.

Miller, formerly of Haverford, Pennsylvania, was a practicing attorney before he transitioned to education, where he believed he could have a more substantial impact on the industry he loved. As an educator, he maintained strong connections with the Philadelphia legal community to ensure the program was always teaching the skills needed most by employers. Under his leadership, Peirce-trained paralegals became some of the most sought after job applicants in the region. Additionally, the Paralegal Studies bachelor's degree program became the Philadelphia region's first and only to be approved by the American Bar Association.

At the signing ceremony on July 26<sup>th</sup>, Babette Pace, a paralegal for the City of Philadelphia and a 2005 graduate of Peirce, recalled a frightening moment in her early educational journey in which her mind went blank as she stared at the pages of one of Miller's exams. After 15 minutes, she wrote her name on the blank exam, walked it to Miller's desk and left. He quickly chased after her and told her of the confidence he had in her abilities. She returned to class and, through his inspiration and her own hard work, earned an A on the exam.

Barnes, a professor from 2003-2016, said he's making this gift to continue Professor Miller's legacy of supporting his students. Time and time again, Barnes witnessed how impactful scholarships were on Peirce students, so it seemed like the right way to honor his memory.

"Ed was the silver lining of every cloud. Whenever I had a bad day, I would call him up and he would turn it all around for me," Pace said. "

"Whenever I saw a student receive a scholarship, they experienced such joy with the realization that they were going to be able to accomplish their academic and career goals with at least some of the financial burden relieved," said Barnes. "Most Peirce students are not only working, but they also have families and many are single parents. Being able to take some of that financial pressure off their shoulders as they complete their degrees is a tremendous honor for both the student and the College."

Peirce will award the scholarship annually to students majoring in Paralegal Studies, Legal Studies in Business or Criminal Justice Studies, who demonstrate a financial need and who embody the virtues of commitment, scholarship and compassion that were emblematic of Miller's work.